Zambales folk decry land-grabbing attempt

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

MONDAY, JUNE 18, 2001 ★ 100 PAGES 9 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 190 ₱15

WHAT'S INSIDE

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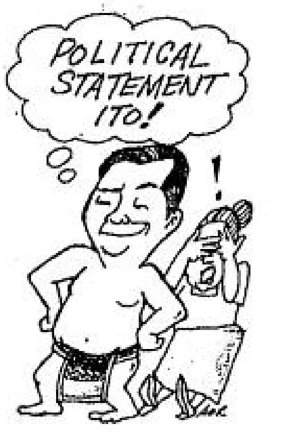
- **Anti-pesticide drive launched** ACROSS / A15
- **New BSP rate cuts unlikely** BUSINESS / B1
- **4 linked to Japanese's murder** METRO / A25

New solon readies g-strings

By D. Caluza
PDI N. Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—When the 12th Congress opens on June 30, one of its newly elected legislators will be coming in

NEW/ A20



₱5-M ransom paid for teenage hostage

Sayyaf leader Janjalani still alive, says ex-captive

By Julie Alipala-Inot and Alexander Young
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ISABELA CITY—A P5-million ransom was paid in exchange for the freedom of 15-year-old Kimberly Jao Uy, according to a source who claims to be the "go-between" of the Abu Sayyaf and the victim's family.

This came as Francis Ganzon, who was released along with Uy on Saturday, claimed that one of the bandit group's leaders, Khadaffy Janjalani, was still alive.

In a recorded interview with Radio Mindanao Network on Saturday, Ganzon answered "Yes!" when asked if Janjalani was still alive.

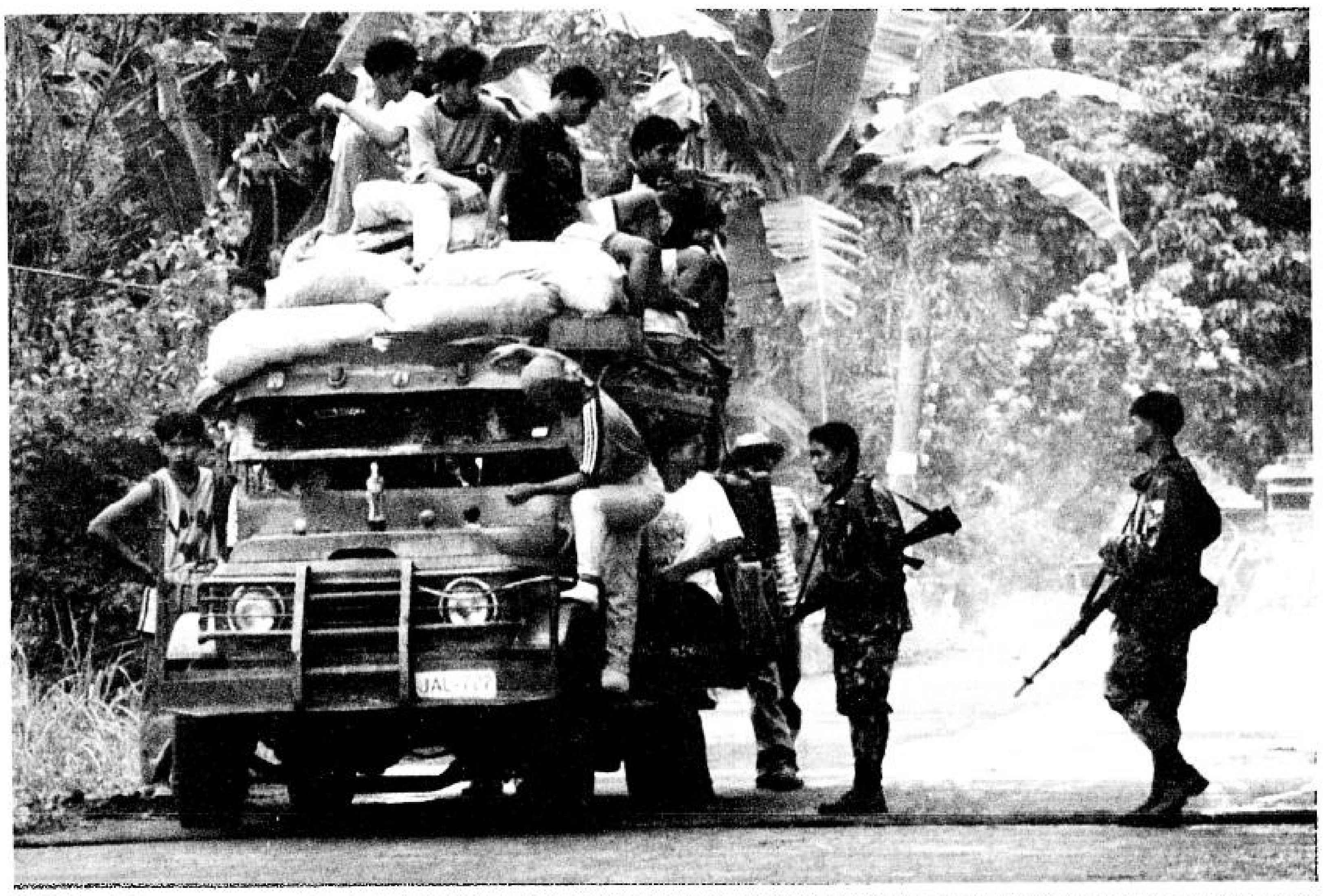
Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar had earlier announced that Janjalani was killed in an encounter either in the towns of Lamitan or Tuburan last week.

The "go-between" said he was contacted by Uy's family to deliver the P5 million, "but it was Dr. Huda Lim who intercepted the money at the Zamboanga Airport last Friday, June 8 at around 7 a.m."

Lim, a physician of the Philippine National Red Cross here, has denied that she negotiated for the payment of ransom for the release of two hostages.

A military official had earlier

P5-M RANSOM/ A20



ARMY Scout Rangers man a road checkpoint in Lamitan town in Basilan, scene of recent fighting between Abu Sayyaf bandits and government soldiers. President Macapagal-Arroyo is scheduled to visit the province today.

DENNIS SABANGAN

Gov't-NDF talks may resume in August

By TJ Burgonio and Carlito Pablo

THE HEAD of the government peace panel yesterday said talks with communist rebels might resume in August after it called a two-month recess following the assassination of Cagayan Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo.

Former Justice Secretary Silvestre Bello III stressed that the government was not shutting its doors to the peace talks aimed at ending the 32-year Maoist insurgency in the country.

He said the cooling-off period would give his panel time to "consult with the various sectors and Malacañang" over the killing of Aguinaldo by the communist New People's Army and other issues involved in the talks.

"It was the (government) panel that pushed for a recess; it would also be us who would press for the resumption of talks," he said in a telephone interview.

He and the other members of his panel—Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza, lawyer Rene Sarmiento and civil society leader Rizza Baraquel—flew in Saturday night from Oslo, neutral venue of the talks.

Members of the militant groups Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and Kilusang Mayo Uno staged a lightning rally at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport upon the arrival of the government panel at 11 p.m.

The protesters called on the panel to immediately resume talks with the communist-led National Democratic Front.

Bello, however, told reporters that Oslo would have a hard time hosting the talks in July, Norway's

GOV'T/ A20

Sobero, Pinay captive engaged, says ma

By Jofelle Tesorio
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The mother of Maria Fe Rosadeno is deeply hurt by reports describing her daughter as the "other woman" of American Guillermo Sobero.

The couple is being held hostage by Abu Sayyaf bandits on Basilan Island after they and 18 others were abducted on May 27 from the Dos Palmas Resort off this city.

Rosadeno's mother Virginia, 59, said Sobero was very open to them from the very beginning about his marital status.

She said the woman claiming to be Sobero's wife in the United States had been separated from him for two years now.

"Guillermo told us everything. He said his petition for divorce with his wife will be decided soon by the court," Virginia said in Filipino.

She said Sobero had told them that his wife in the United States had left him for another man. He was already separated when he first met Marife (her daughter's nickname), who was then working at the Dos Palmas Resort in February, she added.

Sobero's estranged wife Fanny had told police in Corona, California, that her husband left for a lakeside resort on the California-Arizona border to celebrate his 40th birthday.

Fanny also told police that she suspected that her husband, a father of four, had run off with another woman.

The Abu Sayyaf said last week that it had beheaded Sobero. Two headless bodies were subsequently found, but officials identified both as those of Filipinos.

Rosadeno's mother denied reports that nobody in the United States was informed that Sobero was going to Palawan last month.

She said Sobero's eldest child and his brother knew that he was going back to the Philippines to

SOBERO/ A20

Opposition, civil society also hold gov't hostage

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo presides over a state that is hostage to demands of political and social forces that are breaking out of control of the central government.

The Philippine state is cracking from demands not only from the Abu Sayyaf but also from the political opposition and the so-called civil society. There are also the contradictions of her "new politics," the criminal gangs hijacking cars in Metro Manila and holding up people for petty cash in fast-food establishments, an economy struggling just to stay above water, and the inordinate demands of former President Joseph Estrada for privileges and creature comforts

OPPOSITION/ A7

BREAKING 30 YEARS OF SILENCE

'Bombing proved Sison's logic correct'

By Jovito Salonga

(Second of a series)

(Editor's Note: The following is taken from Chapter 12 of the author's new book, "A Journey of Struggle and Hope," in which Salonga pins the Plaza Miranda bombing on communist leader Jose Ma. Sison.)

AFTER three years in exile, my wife and I returned to the Philippines on Jan. 21, 1985, one year before the People Power I revolt, to rejoin the struggle against the corrupt, repressive regime of Ferdinand Marcos.

After the Edsa uprising and during my tenure as first chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, Victor Corpus, the well-known military cadet who had defected to the New People's Army and become privy to the well-kept secrets of the party leadership, came to my residence, accompanied by Ariel Almendral.

(Corpus was actually a Philippine Military Academy instructor when he defected to the NPA.—Ed.)

Corpus made the same revelation to me—namely, that it was Jose Ma. Sison, with the knowledge of a few trusted members of the CPP Central Committee, who masterminded the Plaza Miranda bombing and entrusted its implemen-

BOMBING/ A18

REMEMBER
L
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L

WOUNDED and wheelchair-bound, then Sen. Jovito Salonga addresses the crowd during a reunion of the victims of the Plaza Miranda bombing in 1971 and other anti-Marcos politicians.

FILEPHOTO

Marcoses, Sison foes laud book

By Christine Avendaño and Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LAUNCHED yesterday, former Senate President Jovito Salonga's new book, "A Journey of Struggle and Hope," already has its first fans: the family of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and a breakaway faction of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

"We feel vindicated. We're happy about this book," Imelda Marcos' spokesperson, Cherry Cobarrubias, said of Salonga's work, which clears the late tyrant of responsibility for the 1971 Plaza Miranda bombing and tags communist leader Jose Ma. Sison mastermind.

In Lucena City, the "rejectionist" faction that broke away from the mainstream communist party dared Sison to confess that he ordered the Aug. 21, 1971 attack that killed nine persons, injured more than a hundred, and led Marcos to suspend the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus.

"The least Sison could do to reciprocate Jovito Salonga's pardon is to confess," said the spokes-

MARCOSES/ A18

ABA, ANO YAN? INVASION NA NAMAN?

GOVERNOR, RELATIVE IMPLICATED

Zambales folk decry land-grab try

By Rocky Nazareno

IBA, Zambales—The armed men came at noon and panicked the foreign tourists who thought it was another Abu Sayyaf hostage-taking.

The quiet beachfront barangay of Lipay Dingin has been under siege since June 12 when armed men, allegedly hired by Zambales Gov. Vicente Magsaysay, barricaded the main road and virtually held hostage hundreds of residents and domestic and foreign tourists.

In what residents allege was an attempt to grab their land, the armed group came at noon, escorting a demolition crew which proceeded to tear down the walls of five beachfront properties.

They then placed sandbags and barricades across the barangay road, and placed this under guard by men with high-caliber weapons.

The barricades were hung with placards saying, "Jessmag Inc. Property, no trespassing."

Shocked residents and resort owners asked the raiding team if they had documents to show why they were barricading the area, only to be told that the operation had been done "on orders of Governor Magsaysay."

"The armed men told us they had been instructed not to allow anyone into the barangay. If you are inside, you may go out but you will not be allowed to return anymore," said a resort owner who asked not to be named.

The Inquirer visited the barricade and tried to inquire about the nature of the takeover of Barangay Lipay Dingin but none of those manning the blockade was willing to say anything.

There were about 250 locals and foreign tourists present during the raid, many of whom had flocked to the resort area for the long Independence Day weekend.

The tourists hurriedly packed their things and were taken away in five buses.

"(The tourists) thought it was another Dos Palmas incident," the resort owner said.

The siege closed down the Sapphire, Villa San Miguel, Rose Ann, VV Goldren and Maligaya beach resorts.

The barangay is also home to a training facility of the Philippine Air Force Reserve Command.

While the tourists were lucky enough to escape, about a hundred families from Barangay Lipan Dingin, Purok 5, have all but been kept confined to their barangay.

A curfew starting at 5 p.m. is now being strictly enforced and even children coming home from school are subjected to body searches by the guards.

Schoolchildren have had to take the long, circuitous beachfront walk because tricycles and jeepneys are now prohibited on the barangay road.

The barrio's menfolk, most of whom are fishermen, have been unable to put out to sea for fear that the armed men would loot their homes.

Food and other supplies are dwindling with hardly any deliveries being allowed to pass through the barricade.

The residents and resort owners accused Magsaysay of being behind the siege of Lipay Dingin.

Magsaysay visited the residents at noon on Saturday and told them to "go to my office."

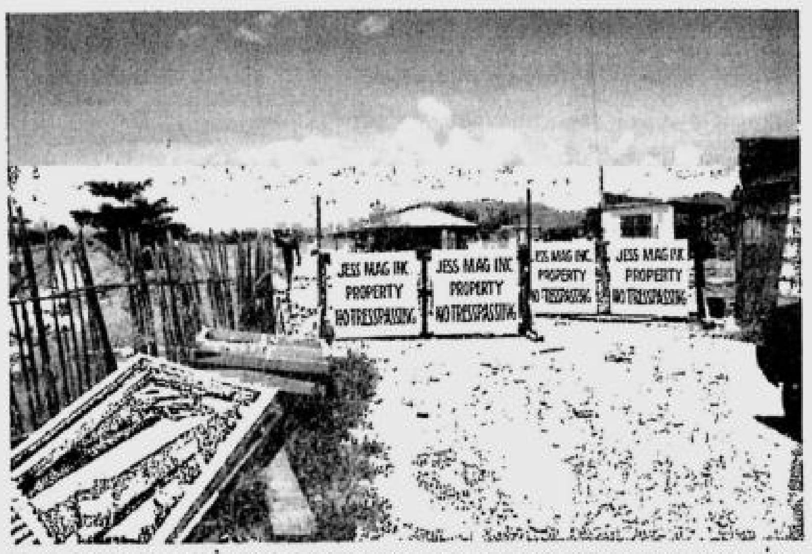
Jessmag is owned by Jess Magsaysay, a relative of the governor.

Jessmag is claiming ownership of the huge tract of coastal land in the barangay, which is blessed with powdery white sand.

"There were no notices, no court decisions or anything ordering the demolition of our property," the resort owner said.

The armed takeover spared the properties of Zambales Rep. Ruben Torres, executive secretary under former President Fidel Ramos, and his brother.

"But (the Torres brothers') properties are well within the area being claimed by Jessmag," the resort owner said.



BARRICADES bearing the name of a company owned by a relative of the Zambales governor block a barangay road leading to several beachfront properties.

As of yesterday morning, the demolition team had torn down all the walls of the resorts that line the barangay road as well as some small houses.

"And since they are not allowing anybody to enter the barangay, how can we protect our properties which may be easily looted by the armed guards who are obviously from out of town?" the resort owner asked.

The armed men were reportedly flown in from Mindanao where they used to belong to the armed group led by renegade Col. Alexander Noble.

"Many of them are Muslims," said a resident.

Resort owners who tried to check on their properties were barred from entering the area. Those who insisted were threatened at gunpoint by the guards.

Four caretakers who tried to stop the demolition crew from tearing down the walls of the resorts were reportedly beaten up.

Residents and the resort owners lamented that no action has been taken by the local police.

"We reported the incident to the police and this was properly recorded in the blotter. But there has been no action. Some of the policemen were even seen escorting the demolition crew," said the resort owner.

Neither has the local court acted on a petition for a restraining order to stop the demolition of their homes and properties.

"That is why we are appealing to the Department of Tourism and Department of Interior and Local Government to help us," the resort owner said.

"Obviously, we cannot seek help in Zambales where Gov. Magsaysay wields so much power. We are pinning our hopes on Tourism Secretary Gordon and Interior Secretary Lina," he added.

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Terrorism no barrier to tourism —Gordon

TOURISM Secretary Richard Gordon said isolated cases of terrorism should not cause governments to advise their respective citizens against visiting and enjoying the beauty of countries like the Philippines.

At a gathering of Japanese and Japan-based travel executives in Manila, Gordon said Japan and Spain, the world leader in tourism, would have been wiped out of the travel maps if isolated terrorist attacks were allowed to get in the way.

"If banditry and terrorist acts were the principal factors that kill tourism, then Japan would have long been wiped out of the world's travel maps," Gordon told representatives of over 40 Japanese travel agencies who attended an awards ceremony organized by Philippine Airlines for their top agents.

Gordon reminded the Japanese of the recent sarin gas attack by terrorists in a Tokyo subway.

In an earlier speech, he told Spanish hotel and resort managers that Spain has had its own share of terrorist attacks from the Basques.

"Yet Spain is the world leader in tourism, receiving some 60 million visitors a year," he said.

"Take away two to three islands in the far South that are not visited by tourists anyway, the country still has 7,103 islands for the Japanese to enjoy," Gordon said.

Gordon asked the travel executives to bring more tourists to the Philippines and save precious dollars rather than bring their tourists to Thailand, which is farther away.

The tourism chief said the Philippines is only three-and-a-half-hours away from Japan compared to Thailand, which is six hours away. Yet, he said, only 650,000 Japanese came to the Philippines last year while 1.2 million of them visited Thailand.

"I want to see this changed. I cannot accept this fact. It is not smart for the Japanese to travel so far and spend more while here we are with so many attractions for them to discover," he said.

Eiju Abe, president of Kamome Corp., which is one of the more aggressive promoters of Philippine destinations in Japan, said he found Gordon's arguments "very honest."

Norman Bordadora

Lamitan prepares for GMA visit

ZAMBOANGA CITY—As President Macapagal-Arroyo prepared to visit the battle-scarred heart of the nation's three-week hostage crisis, soldiers spent Sunday patching bullet holes and rocket damage in a church and hospital that were recently the center of fighting.

Military chiefs also met in Zamboanga City to prepare for the intense security that would be needed for Macapagal's helicopter ride Monday to Lamitan, Basilan, where a battle took place early this month between troops and Muslim extremists holding more than two dozen hostages, including three Americans.

The Abu Sayyaf rebels entered Lamitan on June 2, seizing the church and hospital compound and becoming trapped there by hundreds of soldiers. After a 24-hour gun battle, the outnumbered guerrillas were to escape the cordon.

The fighting caused heavy damage in areas around the church and hospital in the town of 20,000 residents, but the national government has repaired much of it, including roads and houses.

Only sporadic clashes have been reported since then as 5,000 troops scour the island for the rebels and their hostages.

Brig. Gen. Romeo Dominguez said Sunday that soldiers killed one suspected guerrilla the day before in a brief clash on Basilan island, where the Abu Sayyaf are believed to be keeping the hostages. He said no soldiers were injured.

Military Chief of Staff Diomedio Villanueva said small units of soldiers fanned out to various areas of the island Sunday to search for and attack the guerrillas.

"It's not as dramatic as a final assault," he told reporters. "This is the kind of warfare we would have to do as terrain and demographics allow us."

On Saturday, three former hostages were reunited with their families after reportedly trudging for two days through the jungle after being freed by the guerrillas.

The Abu Sayyaf rebels are still holding 26 captives. One of the freed hostages said he recently saw two of the three Americans, but not the one the rebels claim to have killed, Guillermo Sobero of Corona, California. *AP*

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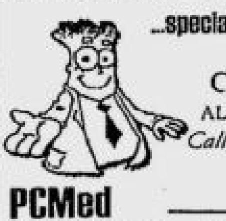

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Gloria all for splitting Speaker's term

By Nagiel B. Bañacia
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo has proposed that pro-administration congressmen share the term of House speaker, to keep unity in the People Power Coalition.

The President suggested the two major blocs of congressmen belonging to the PPC could split the three-year term between them at one-and-a-half-years each, according to Cebu City Rep. Raul del Mar.

Del Mar said Ms Macapagal had indicated that former speaker Jose de Venecia could serve the first one-and-a-half-years.

The remaining half of the term could be served by a common candidate from the group of pro-administration congressmen who have banded together to form the "coalition for new politics."

Representatives Del Mar of Promdi, Florencio Abad of the Liberal party, Vicente Sandoval of the Lakas progressive wing and Carlos Padilla of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino are among the aspirants for the speakership who formed the coalition.

Del Mar said President Macapagal met with them for nearly two hours last Saturday at Malacañang to discuss her suggestion.

All the aspirants belonging to the "coalition for new politics" were present at the meeting except for Padilla, who was represented by Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplicio.

Del Mar said Ms Macapagal wants to preserve PPC unity in order to have strong support for the programs of her administration.

Del Mar did not say if he was amenable to the President's suggestion, but "I concur with the President's concern for unity. We need everyone (in order) to solve the problems besetting the country today," he said.

Del Mar said the members of the "coalition for new politics" will meet tomorrow to further discuss the term-sharing formula of the President.

"We haven't come up with a specific stand on the proposal. We still have to talk about it," he said.

He said coalition members would first have to agree on the process to select their common candidate.

De Venecia has gathered more support in his bid to re-take the House speakership which he held in the 10th Congress, latest reports indicated.

Two Lakas-NUCD congressmen who had earlier aspired to the top House post, Raul Gonzales and Prospero Pichay, have decided to support De Venecia.

As for Del Mar, he claimed to already have the support of at least 50 congressmen.

Del Mar said he has the support not only of Promdi but also of Reporma and Aksyon Demokratiko congressmen who also fall under the PPC umbrella.

Mindanaoans back their own for party-list

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

MINDANAO gave its overwhelming support to its own, making it possible for Anak-Mindanao (Amin) to obtain a seat in the House of Representatives along with the 10 other party-list groups that met the minimum two-percent vote requirement.

Amin, as of the latest party-list canvass, had obtained 323,781 votes, or 2.37 percent of the total party-list votes canvassed.

With 208,586 of its votes coming from Mindanao, Amin can still count on adding to its total with the still uncanvassed party-list votes from Sultan Kudarat, Tawi-Tawi, Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao provinces.

Under the party-list system, a group or party obtains one House seat for every two percent that it gets of the party-list votes. Three is the maximum number of seats that a party-list group can get even if it obtains more than six percent of the vote.

If it is able to maintain its standing in the two-percent range at the end of the canvassing, Amin will be able to install its main nominee, Mujiv Hataman, as its representative in the House. Hataman is a national council member of the Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates and is chief of staff of Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar.

Amin bested the leading party-list group, Bayan Muna, in Lanao del Norte, Basilan, Sibugay, Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Norte and Sulu. It also got the votes of Muslim communities in Manila, Quezon City and Taguig/Pateros.

Another regional party-list group, Abag Promdi led by former Cebu governor Lito Osmeña, has joined the winning circle after getting a boost from the votes in Cebu province and Cebu City. As of the latest count, Promdi had 2.96 percent of the party-list votes.

Those assured of three seats each are Bayan Muna (11.43 percent) and Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga (9.38 percent). The Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives is assured of two seats, and may get a possible three, with its current 5.58 percent standing.

The Veterans Federation Party has one seat with 3.89 percent but still has a chance of getting a second seat.

The others who have breached the two-percent mark as of the latest count were Akbayan, 2.36 percent; Nationalist People's Coalition, 2.34 percent;, Luzon Farmers Party (Butil), 2.33 percent; Lakas-NUCD-UMDP, 2.23 percent, and the Citizens Battle Against Corruption (Cibac), 2.03 percent.

El Shaddai's Buhay Hayaang Yumabong may yet get a seat if it is able to improve on its 1.89 percent vote.

Those needing at least half a percent to make it are the Alyansang Bayanihan ng mga Magsasaka, Manggagawang Bukid at Mangingisda (Aba), Cooperative Union of the Philippines (Coop-Natco), Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP), and the National Confederation of Irrigators Association.

The Supreme Court, however, has ordered the Comelec to refrain from proclaiming any winners in the party-list elections pending the resolution of disqualification cases filed by Bayan Muna and Akbayan against MAD and 16 other party-list groups and parties.

Bayan Muna has asked the Comelec en banc, sitting as the National Board of Canvassers, to set aside the canvassing of votes from Maguindanao because of alleged *dagdag-bawas* (vote-padding and shaving) in some towns and the "statistically impossible" high turnout of voters in others.

Erap changes his mind, won't attend GMA's Sona

By V. Contreras

JOSEPH Estrada has apparently realized that the crises-wracked Macapagal administration does not need another unnecessary "distraction" from him.

Estrada lawyer Rene Saguisag said yesterday his client was no longer keen on asking the Sandiganbayan to let him out of his "hospital jail" in order to attend the opening of the 12th Congress in late July.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is to deliver her first State of the Nation Address (Sona) at the Batasang Pambansa that day, traditionally an occasion where former presidents are invited as a matter of protocol.

"He would really be a distraction there, since the focus should be on the President," Saguisag said in an interview.

He said Estrada was concerned about the "security complications" that might arise if he were to attend the occasion.

"Protocol officers need not bother to invite him. With all the expected demonstrations (at the Batasan complex during the Sona), he doesn't want to exacerbate the tension," Saguisag said.

Besides, the ousted ex-president thinks it might be "impolite to GMA" if he were to go, the lawyer added.

Earlier, Saguisag and fellow defense counsel Felix Carao Jr. were quoted as saying that having Estrada seated with the two other living ex-presidents—Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos—at the Sona would be "a powerful image of reconciliation."

The Estrada camp first aired its desire to have the jailed ex-president attend the Sona in a July 13 supplemental motion.

In the same motion, the Sandiganbayan's Third Division was also asked to allow Estrada and his co-accused son, Jinggoy, to attend the oath-taking ceremonies for incoming San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito and his wife, Senator-elect Loi Ejercito.

The Estrada lawyers have also asked the court to allow Jinggoy to take a leave so he could "clear his desk" at the San Juan municipal hall before the new mayor, his half-brother, takes over.

Saguisag said the lawyers would be dropping only the petition to attend the Sona but would continue to pursue the three other requests.

Veep flies to Libya for peace

VICE PRESIDENT Teofisto Guingona is to leave today for Libya to lead officials in the opening of peace talks with the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Guingona, who is also foreign minister, told reporters yesterday that representatives from Malaysia and Indonesia would also attend the June 20 talks with the MILF to be hosted by Libyan president Moammar Ghadhafi.

"Libya wants to give due importance to the coming peace proposal," Guingona said.

Libya, along with fellow Organization of Islamic Conference members Malaysia and Indonesia, helped initiate peace talks with the main Muslim separatist group, the Moro National Liberation Front, in 1996.

The 12,500-strong MILF, which is fighting for the establishment of an independent Islamic state in the south, splintered off from the MNLF in 1978 and was left out of the 1996 peace accord.

Libya wants "to continue what it started with the MILF," Guingona said.

The landmark peace talks will be held in "shifting venues" between the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur, Indonesia's Jakarta and the Libyan capital, Tripoli, with representatives from the three countries acting as mediators, he said.

Guingona did not say whether the government would discuss Libya's earlier offer of help in solving an ongoing hostage crisis on Basilan island involving the extremist Abu Sayyaf group. *AFP*

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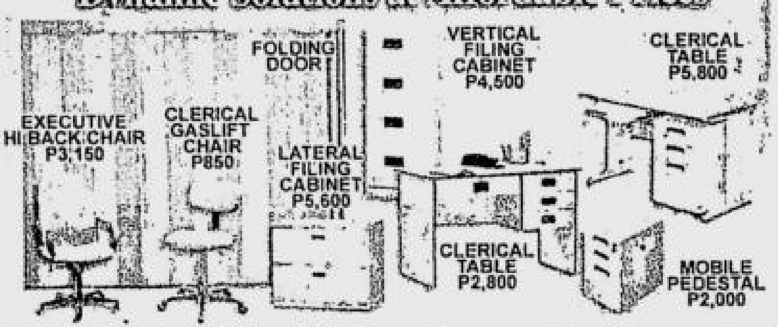
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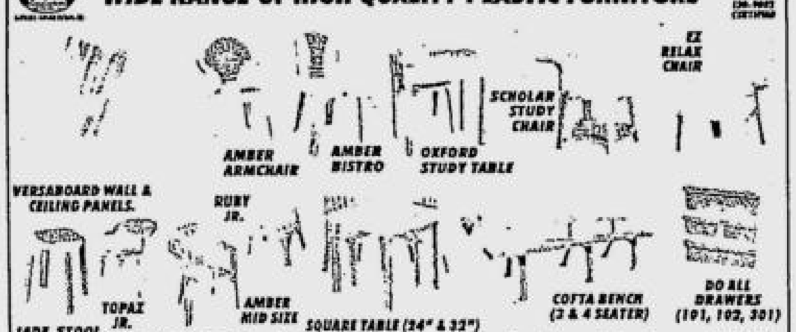

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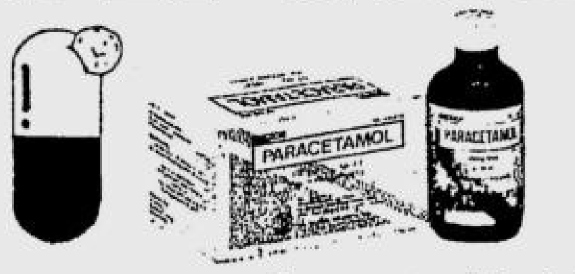

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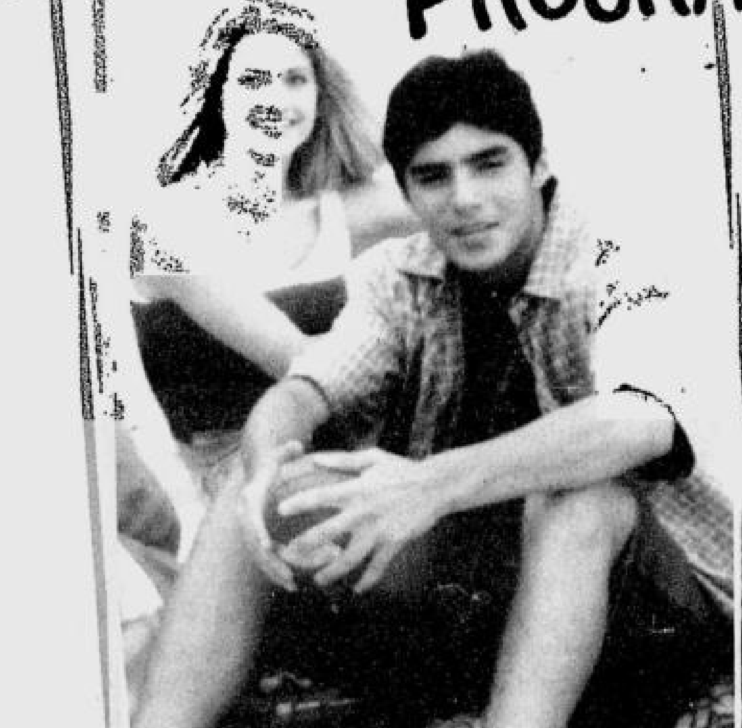

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Recto widens lead in canvass as Puwersa lawyer walks out

By G. Lacuarta

AMID charges of cheating, Senator-elect Ralph Recto has widened his lead over Sen. Gregorio Honasan in the canvass of votes for Lanao del Sur to strengthen his hold on 12th place and a six-year term in the Senate.

But Puwersa ng Masa lawyer Rufus Rodriguez, counsel for Senator-elect Loi Ejercito, walked out of the canvass at the Commission on Elections Saturday to protest the alleged bias shown by the provincial board of canvassers (BOC) in favor of the administration's People Power Coalition.

"The proceedings have become a sham," Rodriguez, immigration commissioner in the Estrada administration, said in an interview yesterday.

"The provincial BOC has become very biased and has deliberately refused to put a stop to the padding of Recto's votes and the shaving of Honasan's votes," Rodriguez told the INQUIRER.

Recto's total now stands at 35,601 votes in 18 of 39 municipal certificates of canvass (COCs) for Lanao del Sur as of Saturday. Honasan, who trails Recto in the national tally by 22,826 votes, has 24,719 votes, while Ejercito has 19,748.

Canvassed on Saturday were the COCs of Sultan Gumander, Calanogas. Pualas. Bumbaran, Piagapo, Maguing, Balindong, Tamparan, Masiu and Tubaran towns.

The envelope from Buadi-Puso Buntong town did not contain the COC for the senatorial tally. Rodriguez said reports were rife the COC had been tampered with then destroyed due to the non-payment of promised "grease money."

The COC for Kapatagan town was opened on Saturday but was put on hold by the BOC due to alleged irregularities pointed out by Rodriguez.

Ejercito and Honasan did not get a single vote in Kapatagan, according to its COC, while Recto got 3,057. Rodriguez said the COC was not supported by the statement of votes (SOV) from the precincts.

Rodriguez complained the BOC denied his other motions contesting the COCs of Ganassi, Tugaya, Sultan Gumander, Pualas, Balindong and Tubaran for indications of *dagdag-bawas* (vote-padding and shaving) and a few manifest errors.

In Sultan Gumander, where Recto got 2,542 votes against Honasan's 133, Rodriguez said Recto and the other PPC candidates received the same number of votes in 10 precincts while the PnM and independent candidates, including topnotcher Senator-elect Noli de Castro, did not receive any.

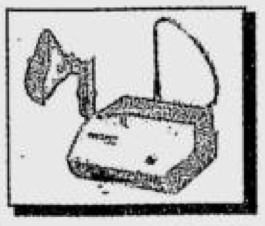
Rodriguez said the most evident case of fraud was seen in Pualas town where the SOV figures were tampered with in blue ink over the original black ink.

He said the "last straw" came after the BOC denied his protest over the COC of Tubaran town where 1,000 votes were shaved off Honasan's tally.

Rodriguez said Honasan was credited with only 473 votes in the COC of Tubaran when the SOV showed he actually got 1,473 votes. He said the word "one" and the figure "1" had been crossed out in the COC.

"I pointed out that the first page of the SOV already showed Honasan with 778 votes," Rodriguez said.

But the BOC chaired by Comelec lawyer Ray Sumalipao ignored Rodriguez's protests, prompting the latter to walk out of the canvassing and announce that he was withdrawing as counsel for Ejercito.



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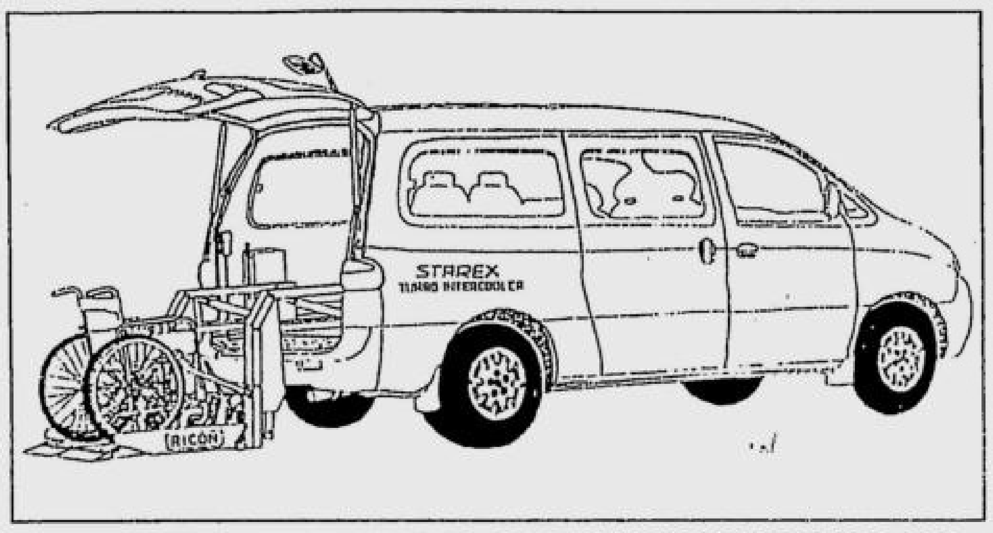

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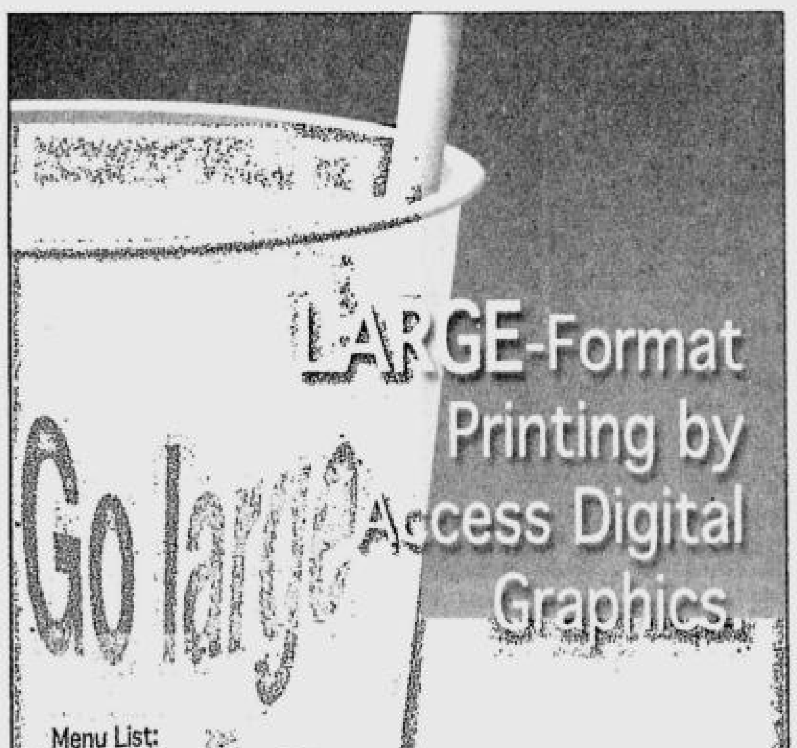

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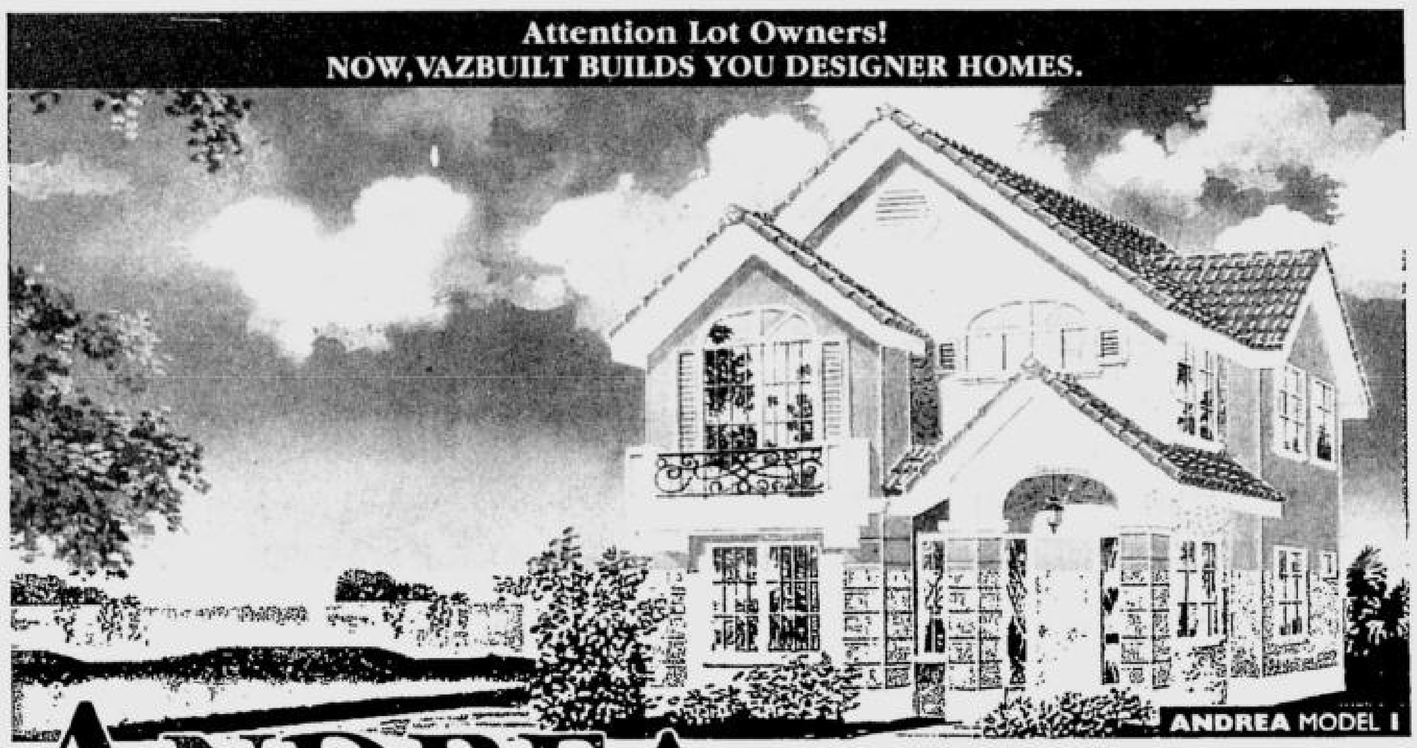

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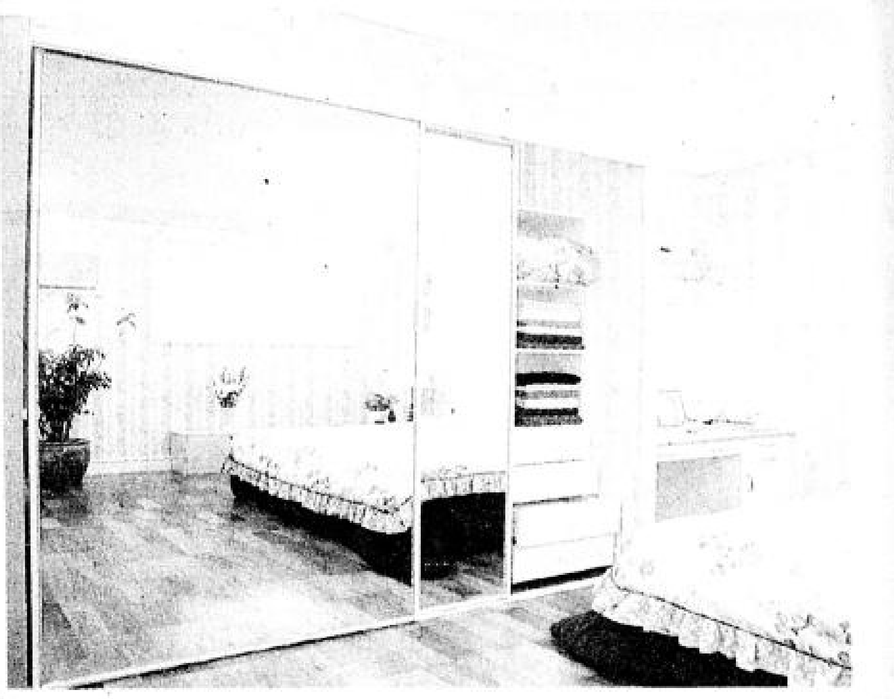

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Probe of oil firms urged in face of new price hike

CEBU City Rep. Eduardo Gullas has urged a House investigation into the "predatory pricing" of fuel products by the country's top three oil firms that has generated a "hidden windfall" for them.

Gullas said he was surprised at the intention of Shell, Caltex and Petron to hike gasoline prices by 90 centavos a liter this week—barely a month after they hiked prices by 45 centavos per liter.

"There is something very irregular here. The oil companies are supposed to have crude oil inventories good for 90 days, so they cannot just raise pump prices based on recent increases in the world market," Gullas said.

The Ibon Data Foundation, a private think tank, has claimed the three oil firms generated P6.6 billion in "hidden profits" last year due to "extortionate pricing."

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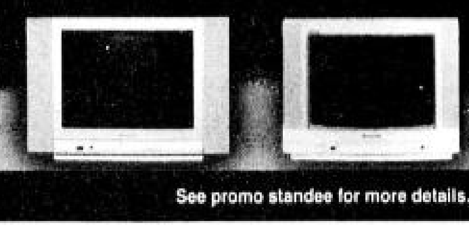

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Opposition, civil society also hold gov't hostage

(From page A1)

while in detention for charges of plunder.

All these demands are putting the Macapagal administration under siege and are feeding into the fragile political system all at the same time. There is real concern that her administration would just be limping until 2004.

All these pressures are piling up on Ms Macapagal who took power without a full electoral mandate—in contrast to the revolutionary mandate accorded President Corazon Aquino by the 1986 People Power Revolution and the election of Presidents Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada.

Although Ms Macapagal was elected in 1998 as Vice President with 12 million votes compared to Estrada's 10 million, she assumed the presidency, following a constitutional route after Estrada abandoned the seat of power.

The legitimacy invested in her succession by the Supreme Court, the Armed Forces, the bureaucracy, the diplomatic community, and the legislature, let alone the May elections in which her senatorial team won 8-4-1, does not seem to be sufficient to stop challenges to her authority.

Her presidency, which completes the balance of Estrada's term, has been reduced to a probationary presidency. Many of her challenges are intended to undermine her chances of success and to make her fail.

Too soon, too many

These challenges have sprung within five months of her presidency—too soon and too many by any reckoning. The magnitude of these challenges is such that the challenges faced by Aquino (the coup attempts), by Ramos (the energy crisis) and by Estrada (the economic meltdown from the 1997 Asian financial crisis) pale in comparison.

Ms Macapagal is being battered by problems, many of which are legacies of past administrations or come mainly from exogenous sources (for example, the downturn of the regional economies).

She has not committed serious blunders. Nor is there a cause for profound national indignation over massive corruption that plagued the Estrada administration.

There is no reason, therefore, for a sweeping disenchantment over an administration that has been in office for only five months. Moreover, she has demonstrated clear direction, high standards of governance, work ethic and political pragmatism as she leaps from one crisis (the May 1 rebellion) to the next (the Abu Sayyaf depredation).

Those two crises were not her fault. In response to them, her government has shown toughness in asserting the authority of the state.

While she had little space to maneuver, due for example to the low state of weaponry of the Armed Forces and the rebellion of the opposition, she crushed the rebellion and she is trying to end the Abu Sayyaf hostage-taking without having to submit to demands for ransom.

Most social forces want to make her administration a bashing beast and pull it down, in the name of democracy, people power and even "civil society" (whatever this creature means). Yet they propose no alternative to a viable government until the 2004 election when a full electoral mandate would emerge.

The opposition, deriving encouragement from the close results of the May senatorial election, has begun to think it can dictate the terms of the national agenda and that it deserves the Senate presidency—a conception that defies the logic of politics.

The logic is that the party that has the most number of seats should get and have the right to the leadership in the Senate. No president in the history of this country has ever allowed an opposition to take the Senate presidency, except when the opposition wins control of Congress through elections.

Collaboration

The opposition is receptive to "critical collaboration" with the Macapagal administration in the Senate but on condition that it grants Estrada house arrest.

I have thought that, following the election, the opposition would have a forward-looking outlook.

The reality, however, is that it has tied itself not to a prospective national agenda but to Estrada's demands for house arrest—a demand that only the judicial system can grant and that is not negotiable between the government and the opposition.

The opposition, whatever new name or party it assumes, is backsliding to an appalling past. It is imprisoning itself in the past and is foreclosing a new vision of its role in the post-Estrada period when it should at least define itself as an alternative government for 2004 with a contrasting political and economic agenda.

Instead of reinventing itself, the opposition is no different from the Abu Sayyaf in holding the government hostage with its demands for giving privileges to Estrada not available to the rest of the citizens.

For this reason, I find the opposition a disappointment. Especially so, since its de facto leader, Senator-elect Edgardo Angara, is a proven leader of creative ideas based on consensus and issues.

Angara won because he stood out as a political moderate oriented to policies and programs. He also has a political constituency whose culture contrasts with the thuggery and mob rule mentality of his colleagues, like Juan Ponce Enrile, Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Gregorio Honasan, who is an incurable coup maker, and Panfilo Lacson, the new darling and white hope of the Filipino-Chinese community after Estrada's political demise.

New politics

The evolution of new politics—meaning less driven by personalities, dynasties and patronage—is a vision that will not translate into reality with a single election.

But it is the responsibility of both the administration and the opposition to give it a chance to work. Neither is doing this.

The fact that the epitome of traditional politics in the House—former Speaker Jose de Venecia—has become a center of a new coalition to elect the new Speaker speaks of the fact the House has few choices to allow the implementation of Ms Macapagal's new politics.

Members of civil society, a shapeless mass which at times looks like a hydra with a thousand heads, want to determine the direction, the values and even the political appointments of the Macapagal administration that they think they created.

They are no different from the Abu Sayyaf and the opposition in making the government hostage to their demands.

The Macapagal administration has arrived at the crossroads where it will have just to say no to demands that will compromise the authority of the state and its capacity to deliver results.

It has not been doing badly in organizing its priorities and restoring the integrity and dignity of the presidency. At least, it has not gone into a corruption spree, unlike the Estrada presidency that began extracting "jueteng" payoffs a few months into its inauguration.

The Macapagal presidency has made some mistakes, and civil society—or some voices in it—has found her presidency too pragmatic or too prone to compromise.

But when the state is weak, it can't face challenges in too many fronts. It has to buy time and space, picking off threats one at a time.

One often wonders whether social forces piling up conflicting demands on the government and the state want any government to exist at all to mediate these contending inputs.

If government cannot mediate these demands and the state cannot accommodate them, the only alternative left is not democracy but civil war.

Maybe that's what we need for a national catharsis or what dissonant forces are asking for.

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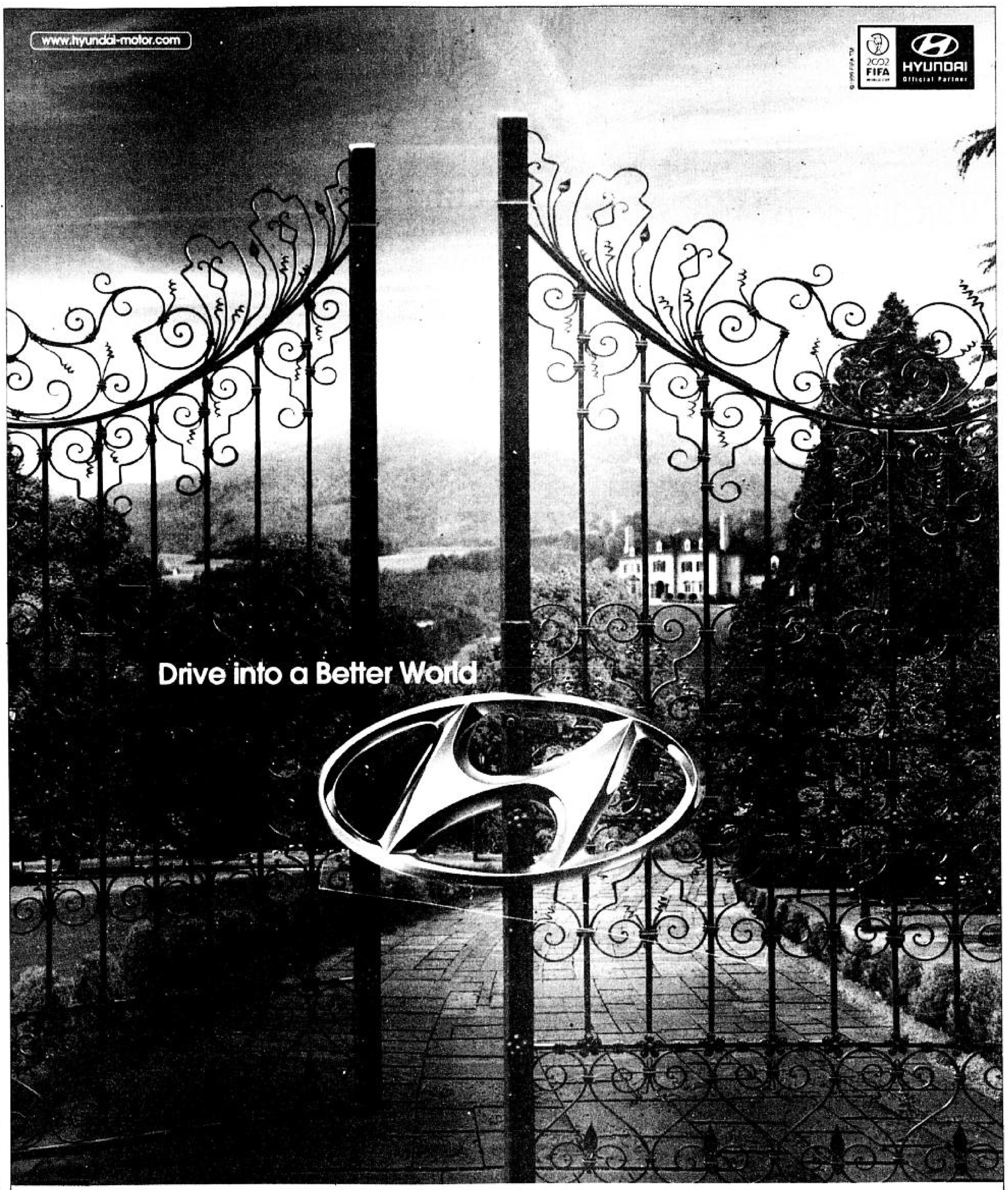

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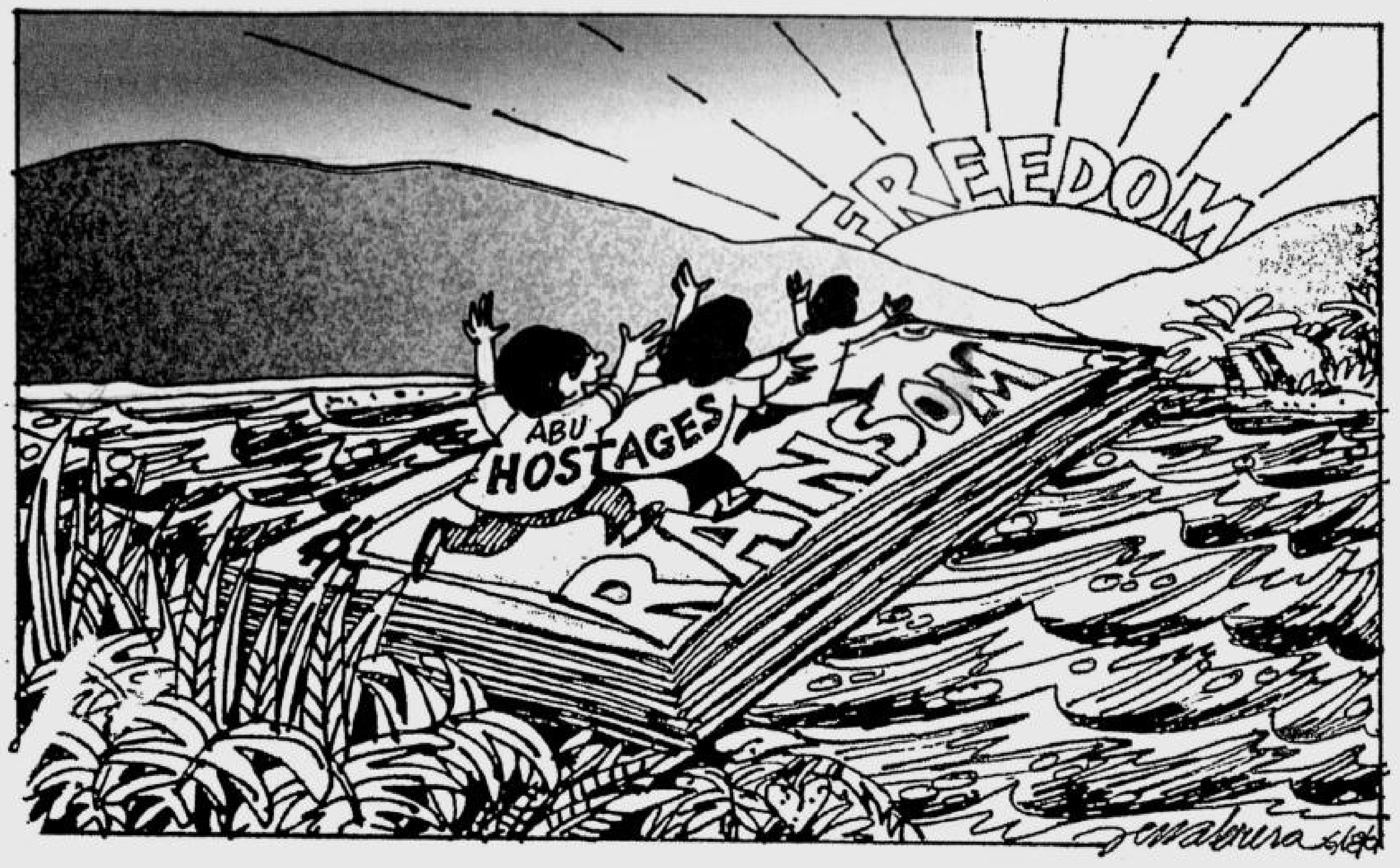

What ransom?

EDITORIAL

THE MACAPAGAL administration appears to have lost control of its no-ransom policy in the ongoing hostage situation in Mindanao. It is now as clear as the Abu Sayyaf's intentions, that money has changed hands. And will continue to do so from the relatives of the kidnapped victims to the bandits through so-called freelance negotiators.

Based on the information of a military officer, the Inquirer Mindanao Bureau reported last Friday that a total of P10 million was paid for the release of Kimberly Jao Uy and another teener-hostage, Lalaine Chua. Uy and another hostage, Francis Ganzon, returned home last Saturday. But not Chua. Her family had not raised enough money.

The officer talked to the INQUIRER out of anger that ransom paid sabotaged the lives of his comrades in arms who are in hot pursuit of the bandits.

A source close to the Uy family revealed that the family paid P6 million for the release of Kimberly through a female doctor. The INQUIRER informant identified the doctor as Huda Lim. She has denied involvement. But then, she has a track record of being an intermediary between captors and captives. By her own admission, she said she was asked by the Estrada administration last year to help in the negotiations for the release of the Sipadan hostages.

The Chuas are reportedly still short of the cash demanded for Lalaine's freedom. Malaya reported that Lalaine's father sold his small business last week to raise enough funds. Until then, Lalaine's kidnappers are holding on to her.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao is upset that the INQUIRER insists that ransom money is flowing into the Abu Sayyaf coffers. "That's a rumor," he said. Surely the government with its extensive intelligence network can easily verify the violation of its policy. Tiglao told the media, "You shouldn't be quoting figures you cannot verify." So, why doesn't he? It's his duty to verify. The media have given him plenty of leads. Tiglao made a karmic slip: "What if it's only P100,000?" he said. So what? By any amount it's still ransom.

To his credit, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez has confirmed the increasingly undeniable. That certain groups with ties to the Abu Sayyaf have been contacting the families of the hostages to arrange payments for their release.

Take the case of an obscure Muslim preacher named Muhaymin Sahi Latip, who has become pivotal in the release of Uy and Ganzon. Bandit leader, Abu Sabaya, said Latip was held on suspicion of being a government spy. He had suddenly showed up at the bandits' camp. Latip himself explained that he volunteered to negotiate with the Abu Sayyaf at the urging of local officials. He apparently succeeded where the government's special emissary who goes by the alias of William Castillo has consistently failed. It was in fact Latip who secured the release of Ganzon and Uy, an official who requested not to be named told Agence France Presse.

So, the appearance of Latip at the bandits' lair was not so sudden. It may have been prearranged among interested parties: the Abu Sayyaf, the relatives of Ganzon and Uy and Latip himself. The initial news about his beheading as reported by the Tipo-Tipo mayor, may have been grossly exaggerated to cover up for his role as emissary between the Abu Sayyaf and the relatives of the kidnapped victims.

The release story goes that with Uy and Ganzon, Latip walked for two days. Having surfaced on Saturday, the two days would have to be Thursday and Friday. But on Thursday afternoon, Abu Sabaya called Radio Mindanao Network to deny that Latip had been beheaded. Sabaya put a supposed Latip on air to confirm he was alive and even ticked off personal data about himself to prove that he was who he said he was. Certainly, it was good to know the man was alive. But the question is, why would Latip, if he was indeed Latip and a hostage, take time out from his arduous trek to freedom starting on Thursday just to go on the air? One answer may be that Uy and Ganzon were being escorted by Latip and Sabaya out of the jungles of Basilan part of the way to freedom. Or, at least as far as the town of Tipo-Tipo in the Basilan capital of Isabela where the mayor appears to have very friendly ties with the Sabaya group.

If, however, the man speaking on radio was not Latip, why would Sabaya go out of his way to have someone impersonate him? Was Sabaya, in fact, sending a message to the interested parties not to worry? That Latip was fine and had accomplished his mission? Everybody happy. But Tiglao.

Electing senators by region duplicates the House

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

SHOULD we change our Constitution? It's that season again when politicians of all stripes cha-cha to self-serving music. Should we dance with them? The answer is "No."

Our Constitution is not perfect (no constitution is); it has many faults. But I don't think we should change it now. Not only can we not afford it (it will cost the taxpayers at least P2 billion) but the present politicians cannot be trusted. They are shameless and the likelihood is that they would frame a Constitution that would serve their selfish interests.

They would remove the term limits for elective officials. They would remove the constitutional ban against political dynasties. They would probably remove the ban against cartels and restraints in trade. They would make the election of senators regional instead of national. They would probably shift to a parliamentary form of government. There may be other self-serving provisions we have not even dreamed of.

If we want to improve the Constitution, let's wait for a better generation of politicians. Congress as a constituent assembly is out of the question. That's like throwing the people to the dogs. Electing delegates to a Constitutional Convention wouldn't be much better. The same politicians who lost in the last elections and the relatives of incumbent ones would run, and most likely, win, as delegates. So the convention would still be under the control of Congress. Remember the last elected Constitutional Convention we had when bribery of delegates was rampant?

What we need to do is amend not the Constitution but the Omnibus Election Code, the Local Government Code, the Urban Development and Housing Act (UHDA), better known as "that stupid Lina law," and the Oil Deregulation Law. These laws have been proven to be mistakes.

The fiasco that was the last elections is clear proof that the Election Code has many loopholes. The provision on domicile for candidates and voters should be very clear so that an incompetent Comelec like the present one cannot interpret it any other way. Right now, elective officials of one province or region, say Bicol, can suddenly run as candidate in another city, say Quezon City. Candidates for mayor of Manila live not in Manila but in neighboring Quezon City, Makati, Mandaluyong and Alabang. The loose interpretation of "permanent domicile" among voters has given rise to flocks of flying voters and encouraged squatting.

And speaking of squatting, the UDHA which was ballyhooed then as the ultimate solution to the squatting problem, has made the squatting much worse, not better. Lawbreakers now hold even the government itself hostage. The UDHA is spreading anarchy.

The Oil Deregulation Law has made the whole nation hostage to the oil companies, sucking the blood out of the people. And the Local Government Code has opened the way to abuses by local government officials, such as buying themselves luxury cars with the people's money.

Amending these existing laws would be much easier than changing the Constitution. The reason we have instability is that we keep changing our Constitution. Our problems are not caused by the Constitution but by the people. The most stable governments are those nations, such as the United States, that have the same Constitution for many decades. Ours is only 15 years old, but we already want to discard it. It is not perfect, but it served us well for 15 years. It can serve us for many more years—at least until we have better politicians.

* * *

The most preposterous proposal is to elect senators by region. The excuse is that most senators come from Luzon and that the people of Visayas and Mindanao are under-represented in the Senate. You must understand that this self-serving proposal comes from politicians from the Visayas and Mindanao whose motives have nothing to do with the people but with giving themselves a better chance of being elected to the Senate.

Electing senators by region would make it a duplicate of the House. What a horrible thought.

The framers of our original Constitution made congressmen elected by district and senators elected nationwide precisely to balance them. The congressmen represented the people in their districts (that is why they are called "representatives"), the senators represented the whole nation. The representatives saw to the local interests; the senators were supposed to see the bigger picture. Their constituency is the whole nation.

So more senators are elected from Luzon. But they do not represent only Luzon; they represent the whole nation. And they were elected because they were better. Most of our outstanding senators came from Luzon—Recto, Laurel, Tañada, Diokno, Osias, Aquino—what's wrong with that? Had the senatorial elections been by region, we would have been denied the services of some of them.

And this pap about denying the people of the South representation in Congress is all bull. Since when did congressmen, for example, work for the welfare of their constituents in the House? They work for their own welfare but not for the people they are supposed to represent. Regional senators won't be much better.

Stop pretending that you're protecting the interests of the people. You are protecting and promoting your interests.

Aliens

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

"CITIZENSHIP," President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo told a group of Chinese who had applied for Filipino citizenship last Monday, "must be earned." "Citizenship is not hanging up your residence papers on the wall but by living day-today as a true Filipino. It is earned by fulfilling the obligations of citizenship, like voting, paying taxes, obeying the laws, and if necessary, bearing arms and fighting for your country. I know that most aliens, including Chinese nationals, who will opt for Filipino citizenship, will honor their status and reciprocate the goodness of their new country."

The President made this speech several days after she signed into law the Administrative Naturalization Law of 2001, which was last Friday. The new law grants Filipino citizenship to deserving aliens who were born and grew up here. It's a law that stands to benefit the Chinese in particular, many of whom were born and raised in this country, but who have not become Filipino citizens. It is a good law, and Ms Macapagal deserves to be commended for passing it, notwithstanding that it also looks like an effort on her part to win over another group that was solidly behind Erap. The law is well past due, as Tulay, a publication by Chinese-Filipinos has been saying all this time.

The reminder about citizenship is not unwarranted, though probably pro forma. It's true also of course that many aliens, and Chinese in particular, want Filipino citizenship for convenience and not for reasons of love for Filipinos or the Philippines. Certainly, they have no love for Filipinos who are cops and kidnappers, who are often one and the same, having been their constant targets. Rare is the rich Chinese family who has not had a kin kidnapped, or who has not paid "preemptive" ransom money to not be kidnapped. Though while at this, it boggles the mind why they should think Ping Lacson, whom they supported heavily in the last elections, is their savior. But that is another story.

I cannot imagine a Chinese-Filipino better reminded of the obligations of citizenship than Lucio Tan, the fellow who profited most from Erap but who later abandoned him and even gave a thanksgiving party to celebrate his fall. He it is who is best reminded that being a Filipino means paying the correct taxes to the government, and not the wrong ones made right by the magic of bribes. He it is who best reminded that being Filipino means obeying Philippine laws, and not making Philippine laws obey him, the latter being what he did when he got Erap to scrap an air treaty with Taiwan to favor PAL. He it is who is best reminded that being Filipino means treating fellow Filipinos like brothers and not like dirt, the latter too being what he did when he tried to force the PAL unions to accept a 10-year moratorium on strikes.

Having said all this, however, I don't know that the reminder about the obligations should be limited to aliens alone. I don't know that the reminder about the meaning of citizenship should be limited to those applying for naturalization alone. Look at the meaning and obligations of citizenship Ms Macapagal mentions above and see if they should not be drummed as well into all our heads.

True, citizenship is not just framing and hanging residence papers on the wall. But neither is it just carrying a *cedula* or attaching photocopies of one's birth certificate, along with the NBI's certification that one has good moral character, to an application form for overseas work in Gabon. Or for the rich, neither is it coming home to reassume citizenship, like putting back old clothes, while stashing the green card temporarily somewhere. True, citizenship is something that is lived rather than worn. But how many Filipinos can possibly qualify for citizenship on that basis?

I remember asking this question years ago when Juan Frivaldo, who had been voted to Congress by an overwhelming vote in a district in Sorsogon, was disqualified on the ground that he had given up his Filipino citizenship when he was in the United States. Frivaldo's defense was that he fled the Philippines because he got into hot water while fighting Marcos. Well, of course not everyone who fought Marcos and fled to the United States became an American citizen, and to that extent the Comelec had a point. But on the other hand, how many Filipinos felt enough for their country to risk their lives to fight a tyranny? How many Filipinos felt enough for their country to live up to that phrase in "Bayang Magiliw" that says, "*aming ligaya na pag may mang-aapi ang mamatay nang dahil sa iyo*"? Frivaldo's case, I said, though seemingly cut and dried from a legal standpoint, was from a moral standpoint a trick mirror showing us the truth of our condition. It was not a pleasant truth.

Not quite incidentally, not all of the senators used to be able to sing the national anthem, or recite the "Panatang Makabayan" in the halls of the Senate. I don't know that the current batch will improve on it.

We ask aliens who want to become Filipino citizens to fully abide by the laws of the land. How many Filipinos do? Government itself doesn't follow the Constitution, which is the highest law of the land. It makes debt payments rather than education the No. 1 priority of the country, in defiance of the Constitution. Only a couple of years ago, it ratified the Visiting Forces Agreement, notwithstanding that the Constitution bans nuclear weapons in the country (the American ships that will dock on these shores will most certainly be carrying them), and notwithstanding that the United States considers the VFA only as a mere agreement and not a treaty.

As to bearing arms, a lot of Filipinos do bear arms, but it is most assuredly not to fight for the country. The right to bear arms in fact has become one of the most perverted clauses in the Constitution, gun owners using it routinely to justify the idiocy of flaunting guns in public. That right has always been allied with duty, but tell that to the congressmen who are the biggest obstacle to gun control in this country.

True enough, being a Filipino citizen, as the President says, is not just hanging up residence papers on a wall but living day-to-day as a true Filipino. But you look around you and you see only Filipinos dreaming day-to-day of the day when they would gratefully slip into the alien surroundings of the Naia and escape abroad. Of course we've marched to Edsa a couple of times and proven to the world, like Ninoy, that the Filipino is worth dying for. But when will we prove to ourselves that the Filipino is worth living for?

It's enough to make you wonder if all of us shouldn't take citizenship tests.

Party-list seats for sale

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

PARTY-LIST seats in the House of Representatives for sale? This has surfaced as the Comelec winds up its canvass of the party-list votes, after having proclaimed the winning 13 senators. A friend of mine who ran as the lead candidate of a new party-list group recounted to me how he was approached by some Comelec people two weeks ago and advised that if he wanted to make it to the winning party-list column, the Comelec people could guarantee his inclusion for the price of P5 million, with P500,000 as immediate down payment, and the balance after proclamation. But how will I ever recover the P5 million? the candidate queried them. Oh, don't worry, they assured him, you'll recover it in six months. The candidate didn't bite because first he felt guilty about it; secondly, even if he could put the P5 million together, there was no guarantee the Comelec people would honor the deal as nothing would ever be on paper.

I checked this out with several party-list groups and I learned that similar offers of party-list seats for sale were made to them too.

* * *

A former PNP official who toured Mindanao in recent weeks to check the conduct of the Comelec canvass recounted how he encountered in Lanao del Sur the staffers of a number of senatorial candidates who were considered in the "danger zone" of the senatorial race; the danger zone is where a candidate could either go up the magic circle or suddenly disappear, especially after a "failure of election" is declared. The staffers were all camped out at the Ayala Resort Hotel in Márawi City, and openly conducting bids with the Comelec people for their principals. This former PNP official said the scene reminded him of the Navotas fish market, except that in Navotas the buyers are more discreet as they whispered bids to the vendors for *baneras* of fish. The politicians' staffers were more brazen and shameless.

To think this is not fish but electoral votes that these political market people are dealing with. This official said that the talk in Lanao is that the time will come when there will be no need for campaigning among candidates; it will be only a question of who has more money to buy the election results from the Comelec. Defeated senatorial candidate Santaniña Rasul is absolutely correct in proposing that electoral fraud be classified as a heinous crime and people engaging in it should be prosecuted to the hilt. Senate-President Nene Pimentel should pursue his crusade against electoral fraud.

* * *

If Abu Sayyaf leader Khadaffy Janjalani really died after an encounter with government troops, as Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar says, this could affect the fate of the small but ferocious bandit group—at least for a while. At this point, however, it looks like the government is scoring better with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which is good, as this is the more serious problem in the long run. Last night a Philippine delegation left for Tripoli, Libya, on a historic mission—to begin anew a 3-4-day-peace talk with the MILF upon the initiative of Libyan premier Gadhafi. Hopefully the talks will continue next month in Kuala Lumpur under the sponsorship of Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad who remains influential within the Organization of Islamic Conference even if that country is not even a member of the powerful Committee of Seven.

* * *

The delegation is headed by presidential adviser on the peace process Eduardo Ermita and includes Mindanao adviser Jess Dureza, Lanao Gov. Mahid Motilan, newly elected Mayor Muslimin Isema of Cotabato City, former Mindanao State University president Emily Marohombsar and Davao civic leader Irene Morada-Santiago. The MILF panel will be led by its leader, Hadji Murad Ibrahim and composed of a mixture of MILF and non-MILF leaders, including former Maguindanao Rep. Mike Mastura, former Iligan Mayor Alan Flores, former MSU president Ahmad Alonto Jr. and lawyer Lanang Ali.

* * *

The importance of this GRP-MILF meeting in Libya can be gleaned from the fact that invited are the foreign ministers of Malaysia and Indonesia, as well as our own foreign secretary, Vice President Teofisto Guingona. Recall that Indonesia used to head the OIC Committee of Seven, and that the 1992 exploratory talks in Jakarta with the Moro National Liberation Front led to the historic Jakarta Accord of 1996 that brought peace with the MNLF, spurring Nur Misuari to run for governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and the integration of some 5,000 MNLF regulars into the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Recall too, that the MILF broke away from the MNLF and chose to boycott the Jakarta talks as well as the ARMM elections. In Tripoli II, topping the talking points between the GRP and MILF will be the joint development of Mindanao communities such as the former MILF stronghold, Camp Abubakar, which is deemed necessary after last year's disastrous war in that island. An "interagency committee for Mindanao" or "Interact-Mindanao" for short, headed by Ermita, will work out this joint development and seek to address the root causes of Muslim discontent.

* * *

Why Libya? But why not Libya, for after all, it all began there in the mid-'70s, when the GRP delegation then headed by Defense Undersecretary Carmelo Barbero began talks with the MNLF which led to the signing of the Tripoli Agreement in December 1976. Interestingly, the GRP delegation chief for Tripoli II, Ermita, was a junior aide-de-camp of Barbero in 1976. Last week Libyan premier Gadhafi called up President Macapagal to firm up the coming talks.

* * *

What's Mahathir's interest in brokering the KL talks, to be led by Dureza next month? When then Vice President Macapagal met the Malaysian leader during a trip abroad, she reportedly asked him, "In the future, will you help me with the MILF?" When Ms Macapagal became president, she quietly dispatched Ermita to KL for some back-channeling.

The coming KL talks constitute the response of Mahathir who, after all, is not too fond of former President Estrada as he professed to be a friend of Mahathir's archrival, Anwar Ibrahim. But Mahathir's response is also vested with self-interest. As he has said, any problem in Southern Philippines will affect Malaysia, for apart from half a million Filipinos who have settled in Sabah, considered Malaysian territory for now, more trouble in the South could send more refugees across the straits.

Tripoli II constitutes possible light at the end of the dark Mindanao tunnel. An accord with the MILF could bring peace to the big island which is good, for many events hang in the balance. In accordance with RA 9054, which amended RA 6734, the ARMM Law of 1989, a plebiscite will be held this Aug. 15 among the provinces in Mindanao to determine if the ARMM is to be expanded; the ARMM elections are scheduled for November. Development in Mindanao could also isolate the Abu Sayyaf. It's a vision worth pursuing.

Taiwan's political winds seen as shifting

NEWS ANALYSIS

Benjamin Kang Lim

TAIPEI—Former Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui appears to have thrown his weight behind incumbent President Chen Shui-bian of a rival party, threatening to further split his own Nationalist Party ahead of year-end parliamentary elections, analysts said on Sunday.

Following weeks of media speculation of a political realignment, Lee shared center stage with Chen on Saturday in an apparent show of support for the embattled leader and urged the people to unite as one in their beliefs and actions and take part in "the birth of a new Taiwan."

Chen, 50, whose popularity has been flagging after a messy year in office, has been up against a hostile, powerful Nationalist Party, which has forged an alliance in parliament with two splinter parties highly critical of Lee and blocked government policies at almost every turn.

Analysts said Lee is betting a shift in political winds would redraw Taiwan's political map in the Dec. 1 elections and give Chen's Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), which favors independence from China, a stable majority in parliament and end months of gridlock.

"There are signs of another split in the Nationalist Party," said Joseph Wu, a political scientist with the National Chengchi University, referring to plans by a Lee protégé to set up a political group and field candidates in the year-end elections.

The DPP now holds 66 seats in the 219-member parliament, which is controlled by the Nationalists, who have 113 seats.

Lee, 78, headed the Nationalist Party for 12 years until March last year when he was forced to step down after the party's humiliating defeat in the presidential elections ended more than five decades of Nationalist rule.

The December parliamentary elections would be the first test of how well the political realignment has gone down with voters.

A survey by private cable news network TVBS showed that 32 percent of 1,098 respondents backed the Chen and Lee team, while 38 percent supported the opposition alliance.

Analysts warned that Lee's move could further polarize the island of 23 million, bitterly divided in support for reunification with, or independence from, China.

"There is a big chance Taiwan politics will become more polarized instead of more mature," said Emile Sheng, a professor of political science at the private Soochow University.

"Political confrontation could worsen. The intensity of opposition to government policies could become very strong."

Taiwan media said Lee is disgruntled his handpicked successor, Lien Chan, chair of the main opposition Nationalist Party, entered into an alliance with his political nemesis, James Soong, chair of the People First Party, the island's second biggest opposition party.

Soong, a Nationalist insider before his estrangement with Lee, finished a close second behind Chen in the 2000 presidential elections, while Lien wound up a distant third.

Lien's election defeat triggered accusations that Lee did not root hard enough for the Nationalist standard-bearer.

"The contradiction between Lee Teng-hui and Lien Chan is becoming clearer and clearer," said Wu, the first political scientist.

"Lee Teng-hui and (President) Chen Shui-bian are becoming closer and closer," Wu added.

In another sign of their icy relationship, Lee took a swipe at Lien recently for deviating from his policy of "Taiwanizing" the Nationalist Party, which traces its roots to China where its troops lost a civil war to Mao Zedong's Red Army in 1949.

President Chen, Lee and Lien are native Taiwanese, who make up a majority of the island's population and whose ancestors had immigrated to the island for generations.

Soong, a mainlander born in China who fled to the island around 1949, was adamant Lee should stay out of politics, likening him to the late Qing dynasty Empress Dowager Ci Si, reviled in Chinese history as the corrupt power behind the throne.

The retired Lee "must not hold court from behind the curtain," Soong told reporters, quoting a Chinese idiom referring to the Empress Dowager.

However, Lee gave no indication he would dump the Nationalist Party—the world's richest political party with estimated assets totaling T$78 billion (US$2.3 billion)—altogether.

"Lee Teng-hui has not formally broken with the Nationalist Party, but the process has begun," said political scientist Sheng.

Nationalist diehards have called for Lee's expulsion, but any decision would be a painful one for the party leadership.

The joint public appearance by President Chen and Lee at the launch of the Northern Society, which groups pro-independence academics, was not lost on ordinary Taiwanese.

In their first joint public appearance since Chen took office in the island's first democratic transfer of power in May 2000, Lee extended his hand to help Chen to his feet when the president almost slipped on his way to the event.

The two men sat next to each other, exchanged a joke and whispered. At the end of the event, Lee and Chen raised clasped hands—a gesture usually used on the election stump in Taiwan—and acknowledged the cheer of the crowd. ***Reuters***

Greenpeace has a black eye

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

CARELESS reading of recent newspaper articles could mislead one into thinking that there exists in the Philippines, a massive public resistance to the introduction of genetically engineered foods and medicines. There isn't. But a well-funded, well-organized lobby of environmental activists and organizations, led by Greenpeace International, is trying hard to create this misimpression. They are claiming that "civil society," and even the local Catholic Church, opposes biotechnology and genetic engineering on the grounds of food safety and religious ethics. Responsible churchmen deny it and uphold a more tolerant Vatican statement.

So, call me a mutant, but my skeptical antennae become active when special interest groups like Greenpeace, the world's largest environmental activist organization and its allegedly pro-environment local allies, try to assume the moral mantle of civil society and the habit of clerics all in one press release on the highly controversial issue of genetically modified organisms or GMOs. Actually, they may have to resort to such quoting of malleable generalities from the Church and their own manifestoes because they are actually losing the battle over the introduction of genetically engineered crops, foods and medicines into the Philippines.

Take the case of Bt Corn. This genetically engineered breed of corn is a wonder of modern science. It has a genetically built-in defense in its leaves and stalks against the mortal enemy of all corn plants and all corn farmers: the corn borer beetle, which annually destroys between 50 percent and 100 percent of many farmers' crops. Consequently the use of Bt corn leads to a drastic reduction in the need for pesticides and boosts crop yield.

When carefully conducted scientific field tests on the growing of Bt Corn in Mindanao were first proposed, the environmental lobby went to the Supreme Court to stop the tests, ostensibly on grounds of procedure and safety. They ignored the fact that similar tests, more than 4,000 in number, had already been successfully conducted in other countries. After this suit was dismissed for utter lack of merit, the tests were conducted under the auspices of the National Biosafety Commission. They replicated the basic results of thousands of similar tests conducted in other countries during the last decade on Bt Corn These tests confirm that Bt Corn is indeed resistant to the Philippine corn borer beetle, and does not represent any kind of genetic threat to native Philippine species of plants and animals. It's robust and safe in many other countries, so it would have been astounding, had the tests in the Philippines shown otherwise.

Filipino corn farmers in Mindanao were duly impressed by the self-evident imperviousness of Bt Corn to the pests and immediately saw the double benefit in not having to buy expensive pesticides. These tests merely confirm what has been known for years about Bt Corn. No wonder our farmers are clamoring for the government to do everything it can to make Bt Corn available to them.

But the environmental lobby, led by Greenpeace, has strenuously opposed the introduction of this crop into the Philippines, on food safety and "genetic pollution" concerns, despite the fact that tens of millions of acres of land are already planted to Bt corn, rice, cotton and similar food crops in the United States, Canada, Argentina, China and dozens of other countries. Surely the peoples of these countries are not more heedless of their food safety than we Filipinos, who don't mind drying our palay on the polluted pavements of our national highways. They are also likely to oppose the introduction of a new Golden Rice variety that promises to prevent 5 million blindnesses annually with high Vitamin A content. The Philippines leads in that research at the IRRI.

I liked the early Greenpeace better when it was fighting illegal loggers, toxic polluters, oil-spillers and cetacidal whalers, where its symbolic but forceful acts meaningfully rallied world public opinion toward their point of view in environmental politics. Of course it still is active, but on the issue of GMOs, Greenpeace has apparently lost its way from environmentalism into the realm of international politics and finance. It has been coopted into the ongoing trans-Atlantic battle between the big North American biotech firms, and their protectionist European antagonists.

A particularly damaging and embarrassing incident to Greenpeace was the black eye it received from the recent resignation of Dr. Patrick Moore, a co-founder of Greenpeace, nine years president of Greenpeace Canada, seven years a board member of Greenpeace International, and a world-renowned ecologist. Moore denounced the position of Greenpeace on the GMO issue by saying that "the campaign of fear now being waged against genetic modification is based largely on fantasy and a complete lack of respect for science and logic." Moore joined over 3,000 scientists worldwide in signing a Declaration in Support of Agricultural Biotechnology, saying that, "In the balance it is clear that the real benefits of genetic modification far outweigh the hypothetical and sometimes contrived risks claimed by its detractors."

I cannot see how the anti-GMO lobby can successfully make its case with the public. Scare tactics and rumor-mongering won't work for long, especially when respected local scientists as well as local farmers and leaders speak out. GMOs are not any more or less dangerous to eat than "natural" foods. Farmers have seen the superiority of the new genetically engineered crops and should not be deprived of their obvious benefits already being reaped by other countries.

But for some reason, the environmental lobby has been successful at doing one thing. It has been able to stymie the policymaking and implementation arms of the Macapagal administration, delaying the implementation of a rational and reasonable program on GMOs.

Comments by ex-Pinoys

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

THE CELEBRATION of the 103rd independence anniversary of the country may be over but the spirit of the occasion lingers with some readers.

A reader, Jonathan Reyes <jomigoo@surffasti.com> has taken the INQUIRER to task for publishing news reports that tend to undermine the Macapagal administration and the country, in general.

He wrote: "...You seem to enjoy publishing news that put the administration in a bad light. Just look at the way you have been treating President Arroyo. From the start, you have criticized her and not given her the breathing space she needs.

"She is doing her best to solve the problems of the country and you complain about her lack of leadership. How can you be so insensitive and inconsiderate? In criticizing her leadership, you contribute to our country's destruction. Stop publishing news that only help the anti-Estrada forces undermine the leadership of the President.

"Another practice of yours that I dislike is your giving publicity to the statements of Filipino expats in letters to the editor that criticize our country and insult us. You even publish ads from them that interfere with our internal affairs.

"My blood pressure goes up whenever I read letters from these people saying they will not return to the country until our society changes. They can stay wherever they are. They are not needed here."

The INQUIRER receives letters of a similar nature whenever it publishes news or articles that are critical of a political organization or its leaders. Shortly after Edsa II, scores of pro-Erap readers wrote to complain about the alleged anti-Erap posture of the newspaper. Weeks later, pro-Gloria readers wrote to criticize the INQUIRER for portraying President Macapagal's visits to the deposed president as political gimmickry.

Dissatisfied readers

The newspaper cannot please all its readers. There will always be readers who will not like a news report or photo that comes out. Even advertisements are not spared the scrutiny of the readers.

The editor in chief believes the primary mission of a newspaper is to report the events as they happen and as soon as possible. A newspaper that is afraid to print unpleasant news or is constantly "outscooped" by other newspapers has better things to do than stay in the business.

Is the INQUIRER guilty of undermining the Macapagal administration by publishing news that does not give a good impression of the President? The editor in chief's response to this question was an emphatic "no."

She explained that Malacañang and media have their respective roles to perform in our society. Governing the country in the manner she best believes in is the responsibility of President Macapagal. As the highest-ranking leader of the land, she is only accountable to God and her conscience for her decisions.

The media, on the other hand, are tasked with the responsibility of reporting the President's actions and, where proper, comment or give suggestions that can guide her in the decision-making process. In the performance of this duty, it is inevitable that the two entities may sometimes find themselves at odds in their understanding of the issues.

The editor in chief underscored that publishing unpleasant news about the present administration and, in some instances, coming out with editorials that are critical of certain actions of the President, should not be interpreted as an effort to undermine the government.

Rather, these articles should be looked at as sincere efforts to call the President's attention to points of view that she may have missed or were withheld from her by her advisers. And for the readers, the "bad'" news should be treated as information they can use to guide them in reacting to the President's decisions.

The editor in chief concluded her explanation with the statement that if the public perceives that the INQUIRER is engaged in efforts to make the present administration fail, the newspaper will lose the credibility it has gained through the years. That would be the last thing she would like to happen to the newspaper.

Former Pinoys

Let us now take up the other point raised by the reader in regard to the publication of comments by expatriate Filipinos that tend to denigrate our country.

A random check of the letters section showed that on a number of times the newspaper published letters from Filipino-Americans that are critical of the government and the Filipinos, in general. Some of the letters were really insulting.

Also, at various times in the past, the INQUIRER published ads by Fil-Ams that called for the resignation of President Estrada or endorsed the appointment of certain politicians to the position of vice president.

With regard to the ads, aside from the revenues they bring in, the newspaper does not see anything wrong in publishing them. It's part of the process of giving the readers the opportunity to know other people's views on the events in the Philippines. The same argument applies to the letters published in the letters' section.

Whether or not these former Pinoys have the moral authority to criticize, and in some cases, condemn the government and blame the Filipinos in the Philippines for defects in governance, however, is a different story.

I share the sentiments of the reader on this point. Every time I read the comments of Fil-Ams or other ex-Pinoys about graft and corruption in the government, inept leadership and other social and economic problems, I ask myself if they have not contributed to the problems they complain about.

While they were still living in this country, had they not, at one time or another, bribed government officials to facilitate their transactions to avoid compliance with certain requirements? Had they not voted for candidates to public office, no matter how unqualified, because of friendship or regional ties?

And when they saw illegal acts being committed, did they simply close their eyes, and do nothing for fear of being inconvenienced or distracted from their daily routine?

While pointing an accusing finger at the country of their birth, the former Pinoys forget that three other fingers are pointed in their direction because they themselves may have been responsible for the problems they claim as their reason for migrating to another country.

Foreign interference

Whatever may be the reason for some Filipinos to leave the country, give up their Filipino citizenship and swear allegiance to another country, one thing is definite: they ceased to be Filipino citizens and, in the process, forfeited all the rights and privileges that go with that status.

For all intents and purposes, they are foreigners and therefore have no business poking their fingers in the domestic affairs of our country. In the same token, it is none of the Filipinos' business if US President Bill Clinton fooled around with his lady aides, or the US police failed to stop Timothy MacVeigh from bombing a government building.

The expat Pinoys cannot swear allegiance to the Stars and Stripes and at the same time enjoy the rights reserved to Filipino citizens. They cannot have their cake and eat it too. Those who do not pay taxes to the Philippine government have no moral authority to complain about the workings of that government.

Sooner or later, the Filipinos will get their act together and the country will assume its rightful place in the world. When (not if) that happens, the self-righteous and fair weather ex-Pinoys will get the comeuppance they deserve. The queue for the senior citizens' homes of their chosen countries starts at the left.

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Economic treaties being reviewed

AT THE PHILIPPINE Constitution Association's June 11 Independence Day dinner at the Manila Hotel, guest speaker Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. articulated the aspirations of 8 million Filipino overseas workers, namely: (1) the right to absentee voting and (2) the right to double citizenship.

The first, Guingona said, is sanctioned by the Constitution and is just waiting for an implementing law. The mechanics of absentee voting is problematic but, hopefully, it can be worked out, possibly by the 12th Congress. But the second, Guingona observed, is a major problem. The Constitution frowns upon the idea of double allegiance, calling it inimical to the national interest. Double citizenship would legitimize it.

During the open forum, I raised two questions. First, instead of facilitating the alienation of our 8 million overseas workers through double citizenship, is it not the urgent and paramount task of the Filipino nation today to make it worthwhile for them to come back here and help build their country? Second, since we now seem to rely on foreign countries for the employment of our workers and on foreign investors to develop our country, do we really deserve to be an independent nation? Another forum participant asked the Vice President if it is not time to review our commitments to the World Trade Organization, the Asean Free Trade Area and the Asia-Pacific Economic Conference in the light of our experience since 1994.

In reply, the Vice President said absentee voting and double citizenship for overseas workers, who remit some US$12 billion a year, are interim measures. On the review of our commitments to the WTO, Afta and Apec, he said a review is actually going on. On the second question, perhaps due to lack of time, he said he would just whisper his answer to this writer.—**AMADO GAT INCIONG, Unit 301 Union Square Condominium, 145 15th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City**

Fairer and proportionate representation

THE LAST time a senator from the Eastern Visayas was elected was in 1957 when then Samar Gov. Decoroso Rosales was elected to the Senate. For a long time, Eastern Visayas was the only region without a senator. Now there are three: Muslim Mindanao, the Socsargen Region and Eastern Visayas.

Time and again there have been proposals to amend the Constitution for a number of reasons. One of them was to elect senators by region in order to ensure the representation of all our country's regions in the Senate. This time there is another such proposal coming from some senators.

In my speeches and writings I have always espoused the amendment of our Constitution to provide for the election of senators by region. The most obvious advantage in such an election is that senatorial campaigns would be less expensive. Besides, senators who would be elected in such a manner would know quite well the sentiments, hopes and aspirations and even the quirks of their constituency. They will also know the resources and strength, the shortcomings and the weaknesses of people of the region they represent. With all these direct information, they should be able to propose laws and measures designed to enhance the socio-economic progress of their regions.—**AURELIO D. MENZON, Menzon Law Office, Ground Floor, BayanTel Bldg., J. Romualdez Street, Tacloban City**

Blocking the return of a 'trapo'

EVEN before the congressional elections, former Speaker and defeated presidential aspirant Jose de Venecia already launched his bid to reclaim the House leadership.

Being the *trapo* that he is, De Venecia has lost no time in implementing the practice of "money politics" to boost his cause. He is even trying to win over party-list representatives to his side to ensure he has the numbers when the time for a showdown comes.

While it is true that then Speaker Manuel Villar followed in De Venecia's footsteps and embraced political patronage, the newly elected senator was able to shuck off his *trapo* image by the heroic act of the House under his leadership in impeaching then President Estrada.

We thought the era of the *trapo* had come to an end in the House. But from out of nowhere, De Venecia is threatening to bring it back.

It is time the new faces who represent the new politics in Congress put a roadblock on the ambitions of a spent politician like De Venecia.

I am sure there are other potential leaders among the second or third-term congressmen more worthy of the position vacated by Sonny Belmonte whom the House lost to Quezon City Hall.—**RIZA MABINI, 2574 Alabastro St., San Andres Bukid, Manila**

Repeal new duty on books from abroad

FOR YEARS I have been ordering books from abroad, titles which are not available locally either in English or in French or German. They always arrived and I never had any problem getting them through customs since books for personal use have always been duty-free.

Now, I got the shock of my life when on a recent order of three books, I was slapped a 30-percent duty on the shipment including in its handling and freight. When I complained, I was told that this was due to a new executive order.

Which "executive" has gone mad to tax books with such a horrendous duty? Or are the-powers-that-be now all out to keep us ignorant? If it is on the instigation of some local bookstores, it does not make sense since if books are available locally, they would be cheaper than if they are ordered from abroad.

I appeal to all book lovers to join in the fight to have this duty on books repealed.—**PETER HEISS, Central P.O. Box 2372, Makati City**

Helping poor survive water, power hikes

WATER rates are going up by 70 percent in some areas of Metro Manila. Power rates are due to rise also.

Is there a way the poor can be spared some of the suffering the new rates will cause?

One suggestion is to charge the poor a lower rate than the middle- and upper-income families. The water companies have the technology to do this. Middle-income areas can pay the increases as planned and, perhaps, a higher rate can be charged in the very well-off subdivisions and business and government offices and for others who can handle the expenses. These higher rates can cross-subsidize the poor areas. The same could be done for electric rates.

The arrangement described teaches a central truth: to help the poor, all members of society must cooperate and sacrifice. It can't be done any other way.

The government pledged to help the poor. Why not a modest beginning with the utility rates?

People might be more willing to pay increased rates if they are confident the increases are truly justified and no party is making windfall profits. Can the utilities and the government find some way to do this?—**DENIS MURPHY, Urban Poor Associates, 80-A Malakas St., Barangay Pinyahan, Quezon City**

On increased tuition at UP

LAST May 23, 2001, the UP Board of Regents confirmed its approval of graduate tuition fee adjustments proposed by the University of the Philippines Manila, UP College Baguio, UP Visayas and 20 out of 25 colleges of UP Diliman. These adjustments are now the subject of protest by UP undergraduate students.

In his letter to the editor, (PDI, 5/26/01) Michael Francis C. Andrada, vice chair of the UP Diliman Student Council and claiming to speak in behalf of the "scholars of the people," condemns the graduate tuition fee increases and denounces "the government's reneging on its responsibility of providing free and accessible education to its people." In his line of thinking, earning a master's or Ph.D. degree is a right and therefore must be fully subsidized by the state.

We agree with the students that education deserves to have the highest priority in the government budget. The UP administration has been unrelenting in its efforts to ask government to give UP the budget it needs to modernize and make it competitive with our neighboring universities in Southeast Asia which used to send their graduate students to us for training. But it has never considered increasing undergraduate tuition fees to raise more funds for the university. UP president Francisco Nemenzo himself considers this "the most unimaginative way" of generating income.

It is false to assume that graduate tuition fee adjustments are, in Andrada's words, "just the tip of the iceberg" and will trigger more tuition fee hikes. Contrary to Andrada's claim that the UP administration has come up with these measures "to compensate for the university's meager budget as the government gradually withdraws subsidy from the education sector," the adjustments have nothing to do with the budget cut of UP. The UP administration absorbed the cut, refusing to pass on the burden to students and to let its academic units suffer. Observing a policy of transparency, it published its internal operating budget to allow the UP academic community to scrutinize the budget.

Graduate tuition fee adjustments are the result of year-long consultations with graduate students by the different academic units. The increases, therefore, are varied. In UP Diliman for example, 13 colleges are increasing graduate tuition fees from P300 to P500 a unit, four colleges from P300 to P600 and one college from P300 to P700. Only courses with laboratory components at the College of Science have been adjusted to P1,500 per unit. Based on the consultations, graduate students agreed to the increases, provided that the increments will be used to update graduate course materials, improve facilities, enhance teaching and offer more scholarships and discounts to government employees. In response, the BOR approved a "full-return" policy and the setting up of trust funds by the colleges for the restricted use of the graduate programs affected. Needless to say, despite the adjustments, graduate programs are still highly subsidized.

The same "full-return" policy governs the laboratory fee hikes also approved by the BOR in the same meeting. While the university provides laboratory facilities and equipment, the cost of laboratory materials has always been shouldered by students. The quality of laboratory-based courses suffers when the fees collected from the students no longer suffice to buy the materials needed. The situation has reached a critical level, forcing departments to bring the issue to the attention of the students. Students agreed to the increases which are still far below the actual cost of materials. In the Department of Computer Science, undergraduate IT laboratory fees (at P800 per course) are 47 percent lower than the graduate laboratory fees (at P1,500 per course) even if the same resources are used. It estimates the total collection per semester to be P77,500, an amount far below the P260,000 it needs per semester to maintain the IT laboratory. The same principle of undergraduate laboratory courses receiving greater subsidy than graduate courses apply to other units.

The UP administration will pursue more creative ways of generating funds to meet its goal of modernization. It will not sacrifice its integrity or renege on its mission to give quality education to the brightest students in the country. It will not succumb to pressures to increase undergraduate basic tuition fees. These are untouched and will remain the same.—**TERESITA G. MACEDA, assistant vice president for public affairs, University of the Philippines**

Ban on midnight appointments needed

A LAW should be passed prohibiting mayors and governors who have lost their reelection bid from appointing their protégés after the elections. At present, they can still appoint up to June 30, their last day in office. This causes bad blood between them and their incoming successor, making the turnover of power less orderly and peaceful.

Can the Commission on Elections propose a bill to Congress to address this problem?—**BERTRAND HAMAMALE, Krus na Ligas, Quezon City**

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Hike in SLEX toll rates opposed

THROUGH your paper, I wish to raise an SOS. Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp., operator of the South Luzon Expressway, has petitioned the Toll Regulatory Board for an increase in toll rates as follows:

Segment	Current rate	Proposed rate
Nichols-Merville	P10.50	P35
Nichols-Bicutan	10.50	35
Nichols-Sucat	16.50	55
Nichols-Alabang	22.50	75

In addition, Citra has sought an increase in the Skyway rate for one single use from P55 to P75.

I happen to be part of the motley group of active opposers headed by Ceferino Padua of Parañaque City. The others are Palermo L. Soriano of Ayala Alabang, Victor C. Avecilla, J. Norman R. Hocson, Ramon Luis Olivares and Maritess C. Santos, who represents the Marcelo Green Village homeowners in Parañaque City.

The issue being addressed is the sufficiency of Citra's income from the use of the Skyway and the lower level of the expressway vis-à-vis its repayment of the dollar-based loan it reportedly contracted to build the Skyway and to make improvements on the at-grade section which have supposedly reduced travel time.

Our group and some other persons, organizations and offices registered their individual opposition to the petition of Citra and took exception to the premises for the increase. However, only Padua, Avecilla, Hocson, Santos and I religiously show up at the hearings together with Soriano and Olivares. With the indulgence of my colleagues, we are puny compared to high-caliber law offices like the Romulo Mabanta Buenaventura Sayoc and Delos Angeles Law Offices and Chavez Laureta and Associates which are collaborating for the approval of the increase. That is why I have written this letter.

My wish is for my fellow citizens to participate in the proceedings, help resolve, validate or challenge the arithmetic of Citra, propose measures to increase the number of motorists using the Skyway, persuade business establishments to settle for smaller profits and, in general, to show some concern for our fellowmen who will be adversely affected.

I am wary of many possible scenarios. First, a public outcry only after the increases are imposed. Second, another increase following the grant of what is now being sought. Third, Citra defaulting on its payments and passing on the dollar-denominated obligation to the government. Fourth, motorists not using anymore the Skyway and the expressway between Nichols and Alabang notwithstanding that they have been paying for the latter since 1969. Fifth, the crowding of the service roads and alternative routes. Sixth, low-earning motorists having less food on their tables or jostling their way back to the coaches of the Philippine National Railways. Seventh, the citizen becoming totally hopeless about his country and his countrymen.

Kapatid, maari bang makisuyo sa iyo?—**EFREN C. CARAG, 4 Lataña St., Tahanan Village, Parañaque City**

PPCRV's role in May 14 polls

THANK you for expressing your appreciation of the work of thousands of Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) volunteers who silently did their work last May 14, 2001. (Editorial, 5/20/01 and editorial cartoon, 5/23/01)

While most of the Philippine media were busy covering the results of the recent elections, it seems that only your paper took time out to remember the courageous role played by the PPCRV volunteers and, to quote your own words, "against terrible odds."

We all agree that Philippine elections at times expose the worst traits in Filipinos (for example, election violence, frauds and other forms of cheatings, and of course, the proverbial guns, goons, gold, etc.), but we also agree that it is also an opportunity where the best in us come out. These come in the form of teachers, intelligent voters, volunteers (including the National Movement for Free Elections), media people and street cleaners, who remove the trash left by politicians, and others, who always rise to the challenge.

Really, we are looking for the time when our services will not be needed anymore, but sad to say, with the not-so-good performance of the Commission on Elections, as we saw on election day itself, volunteers will still play a necessary and indispensable role in elections to come.

Again, thank you for remembering us and our modest contribution in safeguarding the conduct of our elections.—**MANNY B. GELLACO, volunteer, Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting, 95 Alley 1, Project 6, Quezon City**

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

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22 killed in deadliest-ever bomb attack in Bangladesh

NARAYANGANJ, Bangladesh—The deadliest bomb attack in Bangladesh's history killed at least 22 people and wounded 100 at a meeting of the ruling Awami League here, police said Sunday.

The blast at the party offices in the port city of Narayanganj on Saturday night was the latest in a series of attacks blamed by Home Minister Mohammad Nasim on Muslim fundamentalists and communal forces.

Some 400 supporters of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed's party were at the meeting in Narayanganj, a traditional party stronghold some 20 km east of the capital, when the blast hit around 9:30 p.m.

The explosion blew off the roof of the party office building, a spokesman at the Narayanganj police station said.

I heard a big boom and explosion... suddenly the whole area plunged into darkness. When lights came in people rushed in panic as the dead and wounded lay in a pool of blood and destruction," said local journalist Habibur Rahman who was among the first on the scene.

Awami League activists took to the streets in both Narayanganj and Dhaka in protest at the bombing, demanding the authorities bring the bombers to justice swiftly.

Nine people were killed instantly in the worst such attack in Bangladesh's 30-year history, while others died of their wounds after being rushed to hospital. At least four women were among the dead, hospital officials said.

The private Ekushey Television (ETV) showed bodies badly burned or ripped apart by the explosion.

Narayanganj district administrative chief Moshdaque Ahmed told AFP that the bomb had either been planted beforehand or carried into the meeting.

Local police said army explosive experts had been called in to help with the investigation.

The 22nd victim died early Sunday at Dhaka's Combined Military Hospital (CMH) where several others were treated for serious wounds, hospital sources said.

Among those injured in the blast was prominent local member of parliament Shamim Osman who was due to address the meeting. He was rushed immediately to a Narayanganj hospital and then to CMH in Dhaka, party officials said. *AFP*

STUNNED Bangladeshis look at a bomb-ravaged office building of the ruling Awami League Party in Narayanganj town near Bangladesh capital Dhaka June 17 where 22 people died of injuries following a bomb attack. REUTERS

EU commits to open door to 13 states

GOTEBORG, Sweden—Hungary, Slovenia and other formerly communist nations could become full members of the European Union by 2004 under a timetable adopted by the 15 EU leaders at a summit tarnished by street turmoil.

The summit, which ended Saturday, sent the EU's firmest signal yet on its commitment to throwing its doors open to up to 13 more countries.

The EU leaders described the process as irreversible.

Their timetable foresees wrapping up membership talks with the most advanced candidates by the end of next year, starting ratification processes so the front-runners will be members by the time elections to the EU parliament are held in June 2004.

"I'm very, very satisfied with the results of this summit. We shall follow the road map," said Czech Prime Minister Milos Zeman.

The EU won't say which countries will join first, but so far Hungary and Cyprus are leading the way, having completed 22 of the 31 negotiating stages. Those include issues as diverse as fisheries policy, anti-trust rules and customs controls, all of which applicant nations need to bring in line with EU-wide standards.

Slovenia is next with 20 chapters completed, followed by Estonia and the Czech Republic at 19, Slovakia and Lithuania with 17, Malta and Poland on 16, Latvia at 15, Bulgaria at 10 and Romania with 6.

Turkey has yet to start negotiations.

Violent protests marred the three-day summit, which opened Thursday when US President George W. Bush joined the European leaders.

Three protesters were shot when police opened fire as the riots threatened to spin out of control Friday night. One was in a serious condition with stomach wounds. Overall, more than 70 people were hospitalized including over 20 police officers.

EU leaders condemned the rioters as undermining the rights of more than 20,000 peaceful protesters who converged on Goteborg to campaign for causes ranging from animal rights to opposition to Sweden's membership in the EU, which it joined in 1995.

"It is shocking that organized groups are using violence to express themselves," said French President Jacques Chirac.

Swedish Prime Minister Goeran Persson, who chaired the meeting, said EU nations would increase police cooperation to combat such groups who have rampaged at a string of recent international gatherings in Europe and North America.

In a move that cheered environmentalists, the EU leaders agreed to push for an early ratification of the Kyoto agreement on global warming, despite its rejection by the Bush administration. Persson said the EU will send missions to Japan, Australia and Canada to try to get them to go along.

The EU leaders also pledged to improve environmental policies in transport, public health and energy. *AP*

Annan tells Mideast foes: Seize moment

RAMALLAH, West Bank—UN chief Kofi Annan urged Palestinians and Israelis on Saturday to "seize the moment" and work to turn their fragile three-day-old ceasefire into a search for a true peace settlement.

Annan spoke after meeting Palestinian President Yasser Arafat at his West Bank headquarters in Ramallah to discuss ways of cementing the US-brokered ceasefire and ending eight months of bloodshed, which has cost almost 600 lives.

Later Annan met Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon for talks in Jerusalem on the final leg of his regional tour.

Palestinian hospital officials said at least five Palestinian youths had been wounded by Israeli fire during a stone-throwing protest in the Gaza Strip on Saturday. The army said it used crowd dispersal methods to break up 150 protesters.

But most of Saturday saw an unusual calm and the Israeli army said there had been no incidents of Palestinian gunfire, at least up to 6 p.m.

"I think we have an opportunity, but a brief one and we should seize the moment," the UN secretary general told a joint news conference with Arafat. "So I appeal to everyone to work for peace, for the sake of the people, for the sake of the region and for the sake of the two parties involved."

Arafat accused Israel of failing to implement crucial steps mapped out by the architect of the truce plan, US intelligence chief George Tenet, earlier this week.

"Unfortunately the situation is very difficult and nothing has changed on the ground," Arafat told the news conference. *Reuters*

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Japanese investors leaving Australia, report says

SYDNEY—Japanese companies that flocked to Australia to take up investment opportunities in the 1980s and 1990s are now abandoning it in droves, according to a report published here.

Citing a study by a Japanese team led by University of Tokyo professor Motoshige Itoh, the latest issue of "Asia Today International" business magazine said the Japanese economic slowdown was one of a number of factors in the exodus.

But it also highlighted Japanese concerns over Australia's "excessive" quarantine regime, immigration procedures and "failure to participate in the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreement on government procurement."

A major concern also existed between the two countries over access of agricultural, forestry and fisheries products.

The Itoh report is the latest to highlight a problem which Canberra has been aware of for some time.

Australian National University professor Gordon de Brouwer and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade official Tony Warren warned in another recent report that economic ties first formalized between Japan and Australia in 1957 had loosened in the past decade.

This was due partly to changing trade priorities and also outdated perceptions on the part of both parties, the Australian report said. *AFP*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, June 18, 2001
11th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: 2 Cor 6:1-10
Gospel: Mt 5:38-42

Jesus said to his disciples, "You have heard that it was said: *An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.* But I tell you this: do not oppose evil with evil; if someone slaps you on your right cheek, turn and offer the other. If someone sues you in court for your shirt, give your coat as well. If someone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give when asked and do not turn your back on anyone who wants to borrow from you."

Commentary

For us Christians, justice in scripture does not mean that we get at par with others. In a set of wisdom sayings Jesus exposes the usual interpretation of doing justice as dangerous. The sayings are a statement of protest against any kind of force which de-humanizes the human being. The arrival of the kingdom of God is a manifestation of the limitless love of God and an invitation to participate in this love. In line with this Jesus invites the people to develop a new and better behavior in every day life. In order to be effective this love has to be extended even to enemies.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for having called us to change the world through love. Give us the courage to love also when the situations become difficult.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

LABOR LAW (LABOR RELATIONS LAW)/CRIMINAL LAW—Crime of illegal recruitment—Illegal recruitment in large scale is defined and penalized under Article 38 (b) and Article 39 (a) of the Labor Code. The essential elements of the crime of illegal recruitment in large scale are: (1) The accused undertook a recruitment activity defined under Article 13 (b) or any other prohibited practice under Art. 34 of the Labor Code. (2) He did not have the license or the authority to lawfully engage in the recruitment and placement of workers. (3) He committed the same against 3 or more persons, individually or as a group. The factual backdrop clearly shows that the accused engaged in recruitment activities involving 3 persons. She promised to the private complainants employment as seamen in Singapore with handsome remuneration. Accused did not have the license or authority to lawfully engage in the recruitment and placement of workers. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Puno, First Division, People v. Ladera, G.R. No. 131922, November 15, 2000]

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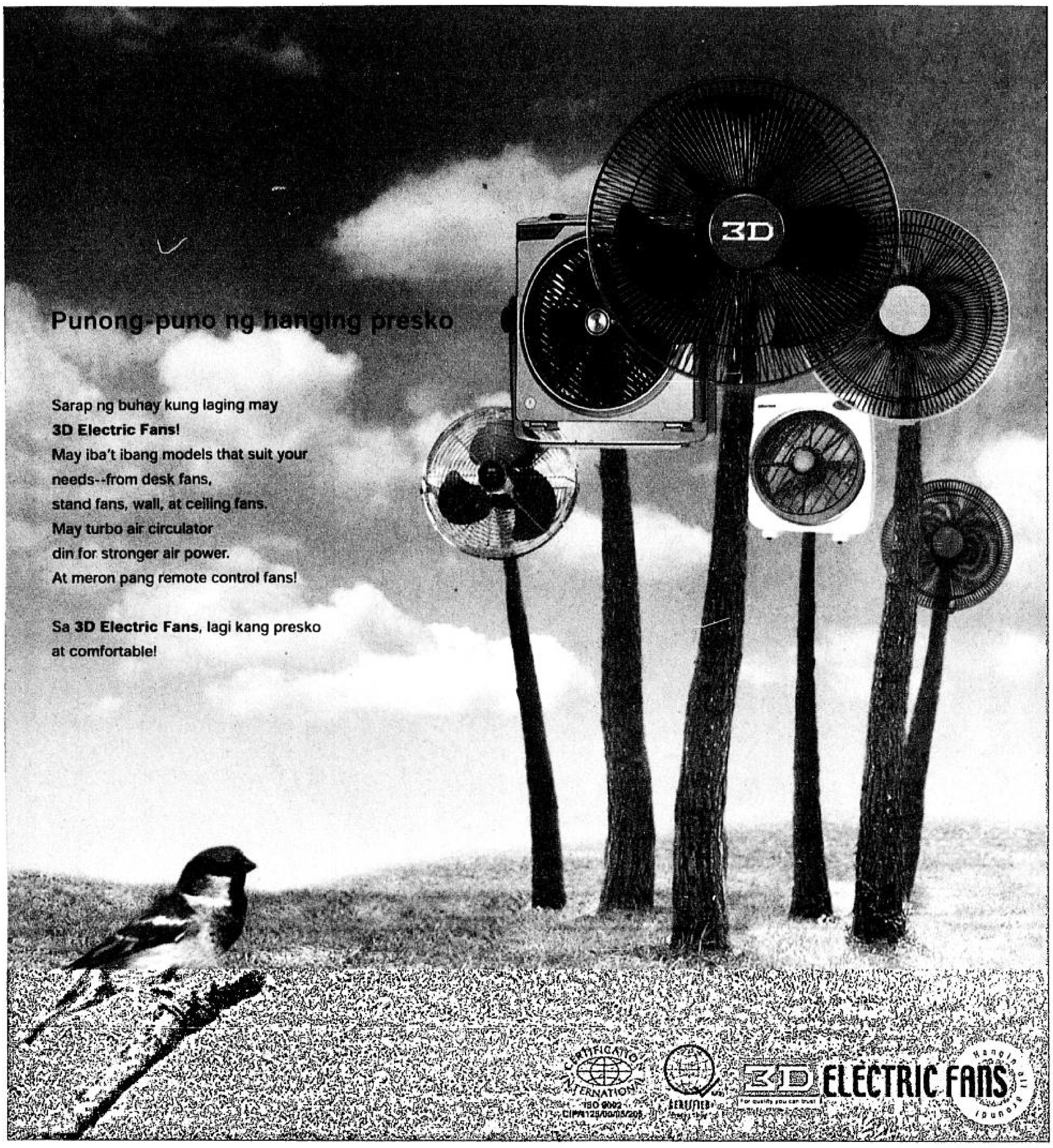
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German scientists apologize for Nazi medical experiments

BERLIN—Grisly medical experiments and killings carried out in the name of German science rank among the most horrific crimes committed under Hitler's Third Reich. But only now has Germany's elite scientific club apologized to the victims, coming clean on the role played by doctors such as the Auschwitz "Angel of Death," Josef Mengele.

In a powerful gesture nearly six decades later, one of Germany's most respected scientific organizations invited former victims to attend a reconciliation ceremony this month at the site of a Nazi-era research institute that Mengele supplied with blood and body parts from death camp inmates.

Leaders of the Max Planck Society viewed an apology as overdue after recent investigations of its own corroborated the close—even enthusiastic—links between leaders of its predecessor, the Kaiser Wilhelm Society, and the Nazi regime.

"I am shocked at how leading scientists of their time gave support to this criminal ideology of a master race," Max Planck Society president Hubert Markl said in an interview.

"As a biologist myself, I find that impossible to grasp, again and again."

Markl, who was 6 when World War II ended, is the driving force behind the investigation by an independent panel of historians—not only to beg forgiveness for the victims, he said, but because "we owe it ourselves as well as the generations to come to no longer attempt to avoid the necessary investigation into the truth." *AP*

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US, Russia agree to consult on vital issues after summit

BRDO PRI KRANJU, Slovenia—The United States and Russia, which eyed each other belligerently half a year ago, emerged from a summit at the weekend with agreement to consult on key issues, including a reformed security framework.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President George Bush agreed at their first summit in Slovenia that their ministers would meet to work out ways of approaching anti-missile defense—a US scheme which has challenged the tenets of Russia's disarmament strategy.

The two leaders, who swapped personal anecdotes and even had an extended conversation on their own in English, also agreed to hold two more summits in addition to a meeting planned next month at the G8 summit of industrialized countries in Italy.

These included a meeting in Washington in the autumn, which could include a stop at Bush's Texas ranch, and then later in Russia.

Though no documents were signed and each side had begun the meeting saying it had limited expectations, the two leaders expressed satisfaction with the outcome.

The two men met in an extended one-on-one session of 100 minutes, followed by a stroll through the grounds of a 16th century castle and another meeting with delegations.

"It really was one of the more remarkable meetings of this kind that I've been in, because it was extremely straightforward," Bush's National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice told reporters at the close of the summit. "They did not blur their differences, but it was still a very warm meeting."

In Moscow, Sergei Rogov, director of the USA and Canada Institute, said the meeting had gone beyond what most in Russian had assumed would be a means allowing the two men to get to know each other.

"There had been the impression that the united States didn't want to take Russian interests into account or carry on a dialogue as an equal partner," he told state-owned ORT television.

"But this was not the case. It is the start of a new dialogue between Russia and the United States. It has become clear that it will be difficult for the United States to engage in unilateral actions, including surprises like leave the ABM treaty."

The 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty has been at the heart of debate on the future of Russian-US relations with Moscow upholding the pact's ban on national missile systems as a cornerstone of disarmament.

Bush and his ministers have dismissed it as a relic to be abandoned as part of the development of the missile defense system to parry possible missile attacks by "rogue states" like North Korea or Iraq.

Putin, who later went on to Belgrade, offered some indication that he might be ready to contemplate a deal on ABM—the theme which dominated Bush's inaugural tour of Europe, which ended on Saturday.

During their joint news conference, Putin cautioned Washington against unilaterally abrogating the ABM treaty.

Reuters

Rescue work on Leaning Tower over

ROME—Confetti rained down on revelers and bells rang again on top of Pisa's Leaning Tower, one of the world's most famous landmarks because of its breathtaking tilt, when it was reopened Saturday after an 11-year operation to prevent it from toppling.

The 12th-century structure next to the Tuscan city's cathedral was closed to the public in January 1990 over safety fears when it had tilted to 4.5 meters off the vertical. It has since been straightened by 40 centimeters.

"It was a fascinating undertaking," said Michele Jamiolkowski, a Polish-born engineering expert who led the project to reduce the tilt and make it safe for visitors and future generations.

Jamiolkowski, whose team was chosen after a large number of other rescue projects were discarded, guaranteed that the painstaking work would add 300 years to the medieval tower's life.

When Jamiolkowski arrived in Pisa 11 years ago, optimists had given the marble-clad tower only another 20 years before it would collapse.

After stabilizing the structure with steel cables, experts removed a mix of sand and clay from underneath the northern edge of the tower foundations, making 41 perforations with special drills to allow it to settle back.

Of the 10 prime ministers who saw the 55-billion-lire (28.4-million-euro, $23.8-million) rescue project through, only 1998-2000 premier Massimo D'Alema attended a ceremony Saturday which was to be followed by a traditional celebration in honor of city saint San Ranieri when Pisans send candles floating down the Arno river.

Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli and other singers will give a concert to mark the event on Sunday.

Governments had made saving the medieval tourist attraction a top priority and an issue of national pride and adopted more than a dozen decrees to help rescue it.

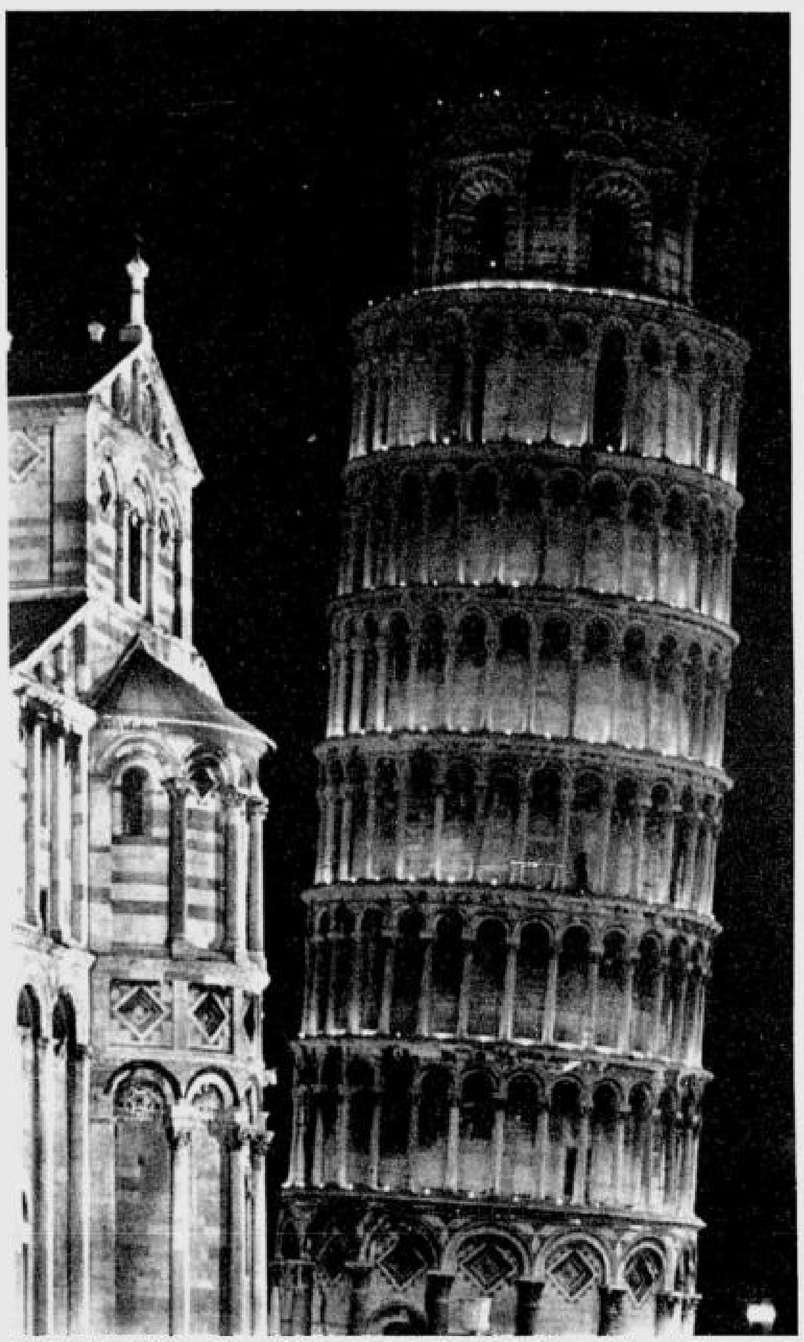
The tower began to lean shortly after construction started in 1173. Within 200 years its slant was already 1.4 meters.

Visitors may again walk up the monument's spiral staircase in autumn, but officials have said that no more than 30 people at a time may climb the nearly 300 steps, and enjoy the view over the city for no longer than a maximum 45 minutes.

Visitors will be asked to pay 20,000 to 25,000 lire (about 10 to 13 euros, $8.50 to $11) to recoup some of the money invested in the rescue. Before the project began in 1990, it cost 4,000 lire.

The fee is also expected to discourage an excessive run on the fragile monument by tourists. In 1989, the year before the tower closed it was visited by one million people.

AFP



THE FAMOUS Leaning Tower of Pisa is illuminated by candles during a test on June 15, the day before the official opening ceremony marking the end of many years of restoration.

REUTERS

Nepal slowly recovers

KATMANDU—Nepal was slowly returning to normal Sunday, more than two weeks after the bloody massacre of most of its royal family.

The deeply religious population of this small Himalayan kingdom has been left stunned by the violent killings and the turmoil that followed.

Initial shock at the June 1 deaths of King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya and seven other royals turned to disbelief that Crown Prince Dipendra could have been responsible for the killings.

Most people just could not believe—and still cannot—that a son could murder his parents, brother, sister and other close relatives.

The new king, Birendra's brother Gyanendra, initially said the shooting was an accident. This was greeted with derision and protests on the streets, prompting a government-ordered curfew.

But last week the commission set up by the king to produce an official report on the shootings confirmed what eyewitnesses had already revealed—that Dipendra was the killer.

Katmandu was like a ghost town on Thursday night as people gathered around radio and television sets to hear that the crown prince was drunk and high on drugs when he went on the rampage in the Narayanhity Palace.

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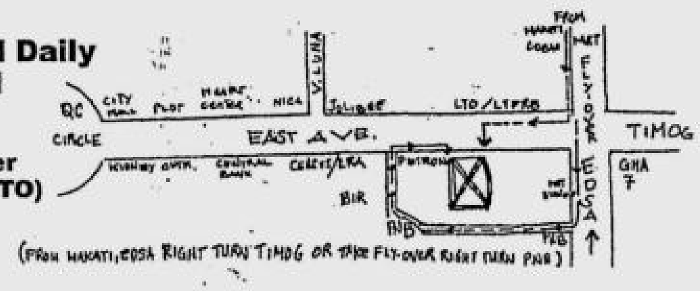

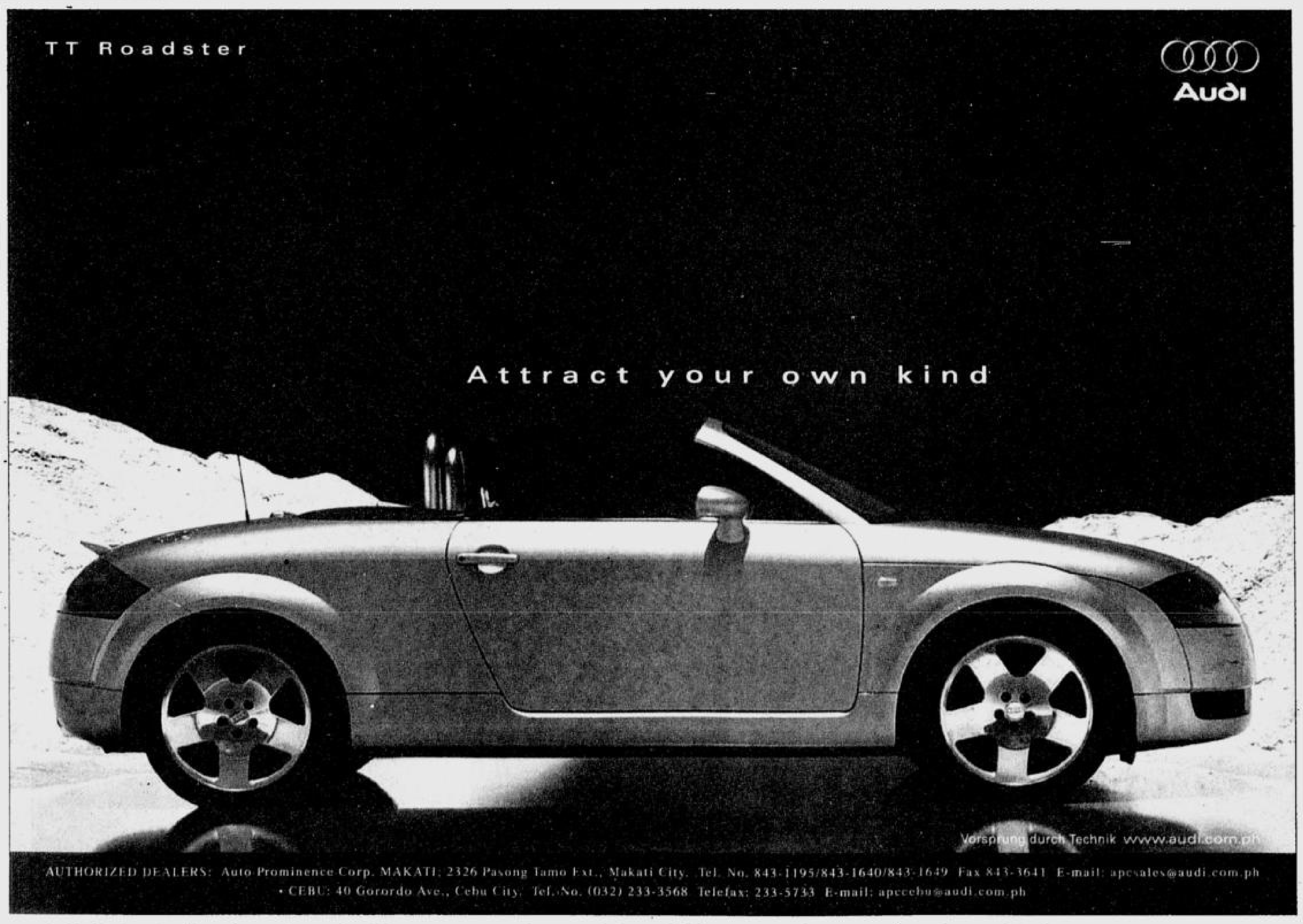

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Campaign against use of pesticides launched

DIGOS CITY—Scientists from the International Rice Research Institute have embarked on a campaign to reduce the use of pesticides in rice production in the wake of studies showing that these chemicals cause more damage than benefits.

Citing a 1995 report titled: "The impact of pesticides on farmer health: a medical and economic analysis in the Philippines" by P.L. Pingali, the IRRI said the value of crops lost to pests is lower than the cost of treating diseases caused by pesticides.

"The health costs incurred by farmers exposed to pesticides are 61 percent higher than those of farmers who are not exposed," it said.

In Thailand alone, the IRRI said, the Institute of Agricultural Economics, which is based in Hanover, Germany, estimated that nearly 40,000 farmers suffer from various degrees of pesticide poisoning.

"The external cost of pesticides use in Thailand, including health, monitoring, research, regulation and extension, amount to as much as $127.7 million per year," it said.

The effects of pesticides on the environment are equally dramatic.

Test results showed that 90 percent of soil, river sediment, fish and shellfish that were examined in laboratories have been contaminated with pesticide residues.

Seventy-three percent of tangerines tested in one survey contained pesticide residues, and more than a third of all vegetables were contaminated with "organophosphorous insecticides," the IRRI said.

Because of this, the IRRI said reducing the use of pesticides has become an urgent issue in many rice growing countries, in the light of the fact that many pesticides available in Asia are classified as extremely hazardous by the World Health Organization.

"(These) are either banned or restricted for use in developed countries," the IRRI said.

Because of this concern, the IRRI has put up a team to wage an anti-pesticide campaign in Thailand's rice bowl, Singburi town.

The team would use an education program already successful in the case of Vietnam farmers.

The team, called the Rice Integrated Pest Management Network, will use cartoon characters, billboards, information handouts and "most importantly, brief and humorous radio programs" in the campaign.

"Local actors will play out a series of brief comedies, using rustic situations and solid scientific facts, to make their audience laugh. The basic premise is that farmers' perceptions, rather than economic rationale, are used in most pest management decisions," the IRRI said.

When a similar campaign was launched in Vietnam, IRRI said, the use of pesticide by farmers around the Mekong Delta fell by an estimated 72 percent.

"We want to motivate farmers to think of the benefits of not using pesticides," K.L. Heong, an IRRI entomologist, said.

Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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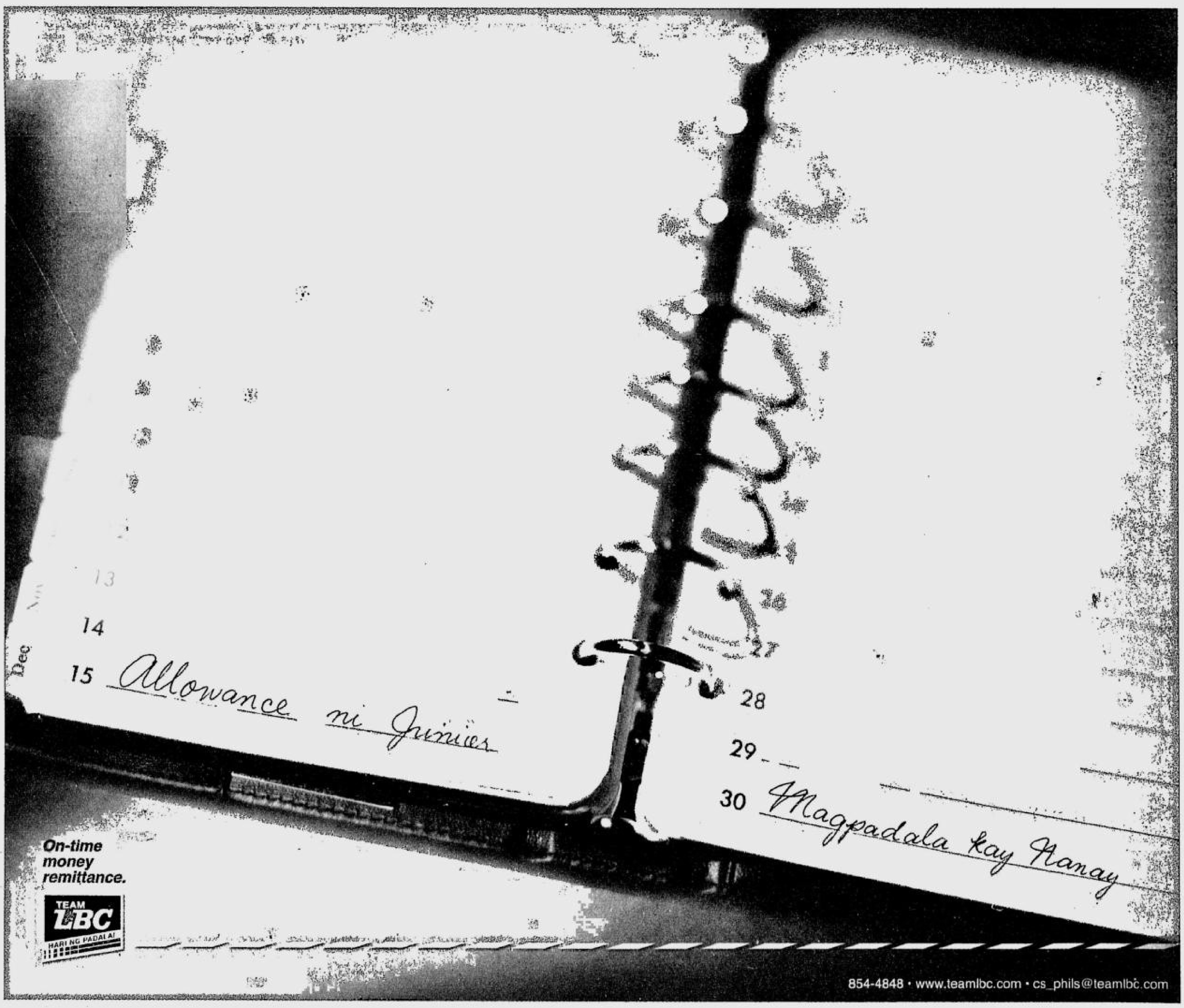

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Robbers kill newly reelected councilor

By Vicente Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—A newly reelected municipal councilor of Dagami, Leyte, was shot dead in his residence on Friday evening by unidentified armed robbers.

Councilor Orlando Cabidog, 58, was relaxing in his bedroom about 7:30 p.m. June 15 when fired at by one of the armed men who barged into his house in Barangay Patoc, Dagami town, some 30 kilometers from this city.

Cabidog was hit in the head and on the left side of his abdomen. He died on the spot.

Supt. Rogelio Montejo, Leyte police director, yesterday told Bombo Radyo in an interview in Dagami that 10 Tagalog-speaking armed men surrounded the house of the victim and four of them later entered the building to announce the robbery.

The robbers entered the master's bedroom and poked an M14 rifle and a shotgun at Cabidog who was then lying in bed. The robbers asked Cabidog to give them money, but the councilor reportedly tried to parry the gun poked at him. One of the robbers fired his M14 rifle and hit Cabidog twice.

Cabidog and his wife had just arrived from Tacloban some 30 minutes before the robbery last Friday.

It was learned that the day before the fatal shooting, the Cabidogs sold some three truckloads of copra in this city.

The robbers immediately fled after the shooting, taking with them pieces of jewelry items and "loose change."

REVITALIZED PHIVOLCS

Feuds prevent volcano watch

EXCEPT in some parts of Mindanao that are plagued by Abu Sayyaf abductions or by intense counter-insurgency operations, all 22 active volcanoes in the country will be monitored by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology later this year using a P300-million grant from the Japanese government.

"We will have to exclude some parts of Mindanao because of the peace and order situation there," Dr. Raymundo Punongbayan, Phivolcs director, said, without giving further details.

Among these volcanoes could be Mt. Bud Dajo, which last erupted in 1897, in Jolo, Sulu, where the Abu Sayyaf bandits are known to operate.

The Phivolcs, on a P91-million budget this year, has maintained observatory stations in only eight volcanoes.

PUNONGBAYAN

These are in Hibok-Hibok in Mambajao, Camiguin Island; Taal in Talisay, Batangas; Mayon in Legazpi City; Canlaon in Negros Oriental; Bulusan in Sorsogon; Banahaw in the boundaries of Quezon and Laguna; Pinatubo in Zambales; and Parker in South Cotabato.

Phivolcs' strict watch of Philippine volcanoes came on the heels of Mt. Pinatubo's destructive eruptions in 1991 and the presence of more than 200 mostly inactive volcanoes distributed in the country's five volcanic belts, according to Punongbayan.

The other active volcanoes in the Philippines are Ragang in Cotabato; Smith, Didicas, Babuyan Claro and Camiguin de Babuyanes in the Babuyan Island Group in Northern Luzon; and Cagua in Cagayan.

The others are Calayo and Kalatungan in Bukidnon; Iraya in Batanes; Iriga in Camarines Sur; Biliran in Biliran; Matutum in Cotabato; and Makaturing in Lanao.

These were considered active as these have erupted within the last 600 years.

Mayon is the most active, erupting 44 times until the early 1990s.

Phivolcs has declared a six-kilometer permanent danger zone around Mayon, 4-km around Bulusan, 8-km around Canlaon and 10-km around Pinatubo.

The whole volcano island of Taal is off limits to permanent settlement.

Under the Japanese grant, Punongbayan said the Phivolcs would put up 34 seismic stations around the active volcanoes. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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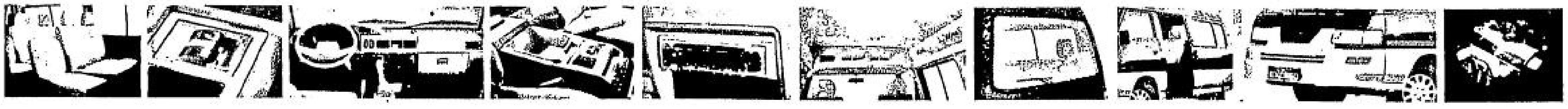

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Comelec asked to nullify lawmaker's victory

By Jani Arnaiz
PDI Visayas Bureau

ORMOC CITY—Mayor Eufrocino Codilla Sr. of this city is set to question before the Commission on Elections the proclamation of losing reelectionist Rep. Victoria Locsin as winner in Leyte's fourth district congressional race.

Locsin (Nationalist People's Coalition) was proclaimed winner on Friday by the Leyte provincial board of canvassers even after election results showed that she lost by over 17,000 votes to Codilla (Lakas-People Power Coalition), her lone opponent in the last elections.

Her proclamation as winner was based on a Comelec second division ruling handed down on Friday, which disqualified Codilla as a candidate for "indirect solicitation of votes." The Comelec division also declared votes cast in his favor "stray and invalid."

The mayor's son, Winnie, said Locsin's proclamation was highly questionable since they did not know of the existence of the ruling.

He said they later asked for a copy of the ruling but provincial election officer Federico Carolino was "nowhere to be found."

He said they would question why Carolino proclaimed Locsin winner when he was supposed to know that the ruling was not yet final.

"We have yet to receive the copy of the said Comelec decision. And they should have at least waited for five days after we file our motion for reconsideration (before Carolino proclaimed Locsin as winner)," he said.

Winnie said they also could not understand how the Comelec second division arrived at its decision when the Locsin couple was facing a disqualification case before the Comelec for massive vote buying and for acts of terrorism, among others.

The younger Codilla ran for mayor to replace his father but lost to former Rep. Carmelo Locsin, Victoria's husband. But in the congressional race, Victoria was lagging behind the older Codilla by a wide margin. The official count showed that Mayor Codilla got a total of 71,350 votes against Locsin's 53,447 votes.

Codilla's proclamation as winner was, however, suspended due to a disqualification case filed in April against the mayor by a certain Josephine de la Cruz, of Barangay Riverside, Kananga. She claimed that Codilla used government vehicles in hauling and distributing sand and gravel to gain votes in some villages in the towns of Matag-ob and Kananga, which belong to the fourth congressional district, during the campaign period.

The Comelec second division said the issue was not whether or not Codilla was leading in the count but if he was qualified to hold public office in the wake of allegations that he indirectly bought votes.

The second division decided to give weight to the allegations of the complainant. It declared the mayor guilty of violating Sections 261(a) and 261(o) of the Omnibus Elections Code which prohibit candidates from soliciting and buying votes and using government-owned and -controlled equipment and facilities to solicit votes. *With a report by Joey Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Losing bet seeks recount

By Vicente Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—A losing candidate for mayor has asked a local court to order a recount of all votes cast in his town's 82 precincts, claiming there was massive fraud there during the May 14 elections.

The petition was filed by Valentin Santiago (Lakas-NUCD), 37, who lost by only 191 votes to reelectionist Mayor Antonio Rivera (Nationalist People's Coalition), 38. He received 5,567 votes while Rivera got 5,758 votes.

Santiago claimed in his election protest that "various anomalies, irregularities, electoral frauds (sic) and rampant violations of election laws, rules and regulations" were allegedly perpetrated by his opponent's camp during the May 14 elections.

He alleged that in the counting of votes, Rivera was "credited with more than what he actually obtained, and (that he was) credited with less votes than what he actually obtained."

Among the irregularities that Santiago cited in his protest were the alleged reading of ballots twice when it was a vote for Rivera; votes that were cast in his favor were considered stray; votes for him in some election returns were "unlawfully reduced;" and "fake ballots" were used in favor of his opponent.

He also claimed that instead of delivering the ballot boxes from the precincts to the office of the municipal treasurer, these were instead brought to the mayor's office "where the ballot boxes were opened and a substitution of manufactured ballots... bearing the name of (Rivera)" occurred.

"This undoing was recorded by moving camera," Santiago claimed, referring to the alleged opening of ballot boxes and substitution of ballots.

Santiago also asked for damages of P400,000, representing P100,000 in attorney's fees and P300,000 in litigation expenses.

Rivera could not immediately be reached for comment.

It was learned that on June 8, the court took custody of all the ballot boxes and other election paraphernalia for safekeeping.

The case is being heard by Judge Gorgonio T. Alvarez of Branch 4 of the Regional Trial Court in Dolores, some 140 kilometers northeast of this city.

Delayed dam to operate in September

COTABATO CITY—The government's multibillion-peso Malitubog-Maridagao (Malmar) irrigation project in Carmen, North Cotabato, will finally be operational by September after encountering so many delays due to, among others, the unstable peace and order situation in the area.

"We are now in the finishing stage. About 3,000 cubic meters of concrete mix is needed before the Malmar (irrigation) dam could be opened to irrigate farmlands," said National Irrigation Administration regional director Macmod Mending.

Mending said the project completion has had so many delays due to the Moro insurgency problem in the area and the pulling out of the Shinsung Construction Co., a Korean firm.

It took the government almost a year to find a replacement for the Korean firm.

But Mending said what will be inaugurated in September will just be the first phase of the project that will initially irrigate the rice paddies of Pagalungan and Pagagawan towns in Maguindanao and Carmen in North Cotabato.

The town of Pikit, also in North Cotabato, will benefit from the project after the completion of the last phase of its construction work, mostly the building of lateral canals, service roads and drainage systems, said Noldin Oyod, officer in charge of the Malmar project.

Originally, Oyod said, the project was under contract by Shinsung at a cost of P570 million, but it was abandoned in 1993 due to intense fighting between guerrillas and soldiers at the project site that threatened the lives of Korean engineers and their workers.

Following the series of oil price hikes and the devaluation of the peso, the government was prompted to restructure the project cost at P712 million. Its contract was awarded to Cetic, a Chinese construction firm that is now building the dam.

The project, that began construction in October 1989 at a cost of over a billion pesos, is now estimated to cost P2.5 billion when completed, Oyod said.

The government was able to secure a loan of over a billion pesos from the Japanese government and a counterpart of about the same amount of the project, designed to irrigate some 10,000 hectares of land in Maguindanao and North Cotabato. *Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Central Luzon, Bicol region, Aurora and Quezon will have widespread rains. The rest of Luzon, the whole of Visayas and Mindanao will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

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Laoag HI 31° Lo 22°	Clark Zone HI 31° Lo 24°	Tagaytay HI 32° Lo 21°
Legazpi HI 30° Lo 23°	Bacolod HI 31° Lo 24°	Roxas HI 31° Lo 24°
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Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/06/18/01

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Cotabato folk brace for hike in water rates

COTABATO CITY—Residents served by the Cotabato City Water District (CCWD) are left with no choice but to prepare for the P3.59 per cubic-meter-a-day increase in their water rates effective July 1.

CCWD general manager Delfin Hilario said from the current daily rate of P9.20 per cu.m., consumers next month will have to be charged P12.79 per cu.m., an increase of P3.59 per cu.m.

Hilario said the water rate adjustment, embodied in a CCWD board resolution, had been agreed upon during a public assembly held here in 1997.

The assembly was attended by representatives of the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA).

Some residents complained that every time the CCWD acquires loan from an international lending institution, consumers are made to pay for the debt through increased water rates.

Hilario said that the CCWD is "a non-profit entity and therefore self-reliant."

He said the water district's existing loan with the Asian Development Bank was used by the CCWD in its ongoing "massive expansion program."

The CCWD caters not only to Cotabato City but also to thousands of dwellers in Sultan Kudarat and Datu Odin Sinsuat towns in Maguindanao.

Despite the water rate increase, Hilario said he still considers CCWD water rates cheaper compared to the rates being charged by private water dealers.

He said should this city's residents and the clients of the CCWD choose to buy water from private dealers, they would be paying at least P15 per drum of water.

A drum filled with water is equivalent to a cubic meter. *Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1170 Series of 2001

'Bombing proved Sison's logic correct'

(From page A1)

tation to Danny Cordero and his two accomplices.

Corpus revealed that in February 1971—a few months before the Plaza Miranda bombing—Sison went to the NPA headquarters in Isabela where he and NPA commander Dante Buscayno had been staying. Jose Luneta, then secretary general of the Party, joined them a little later.

It was here that Sison told them about an expected arms shipment from Communist China and the need to produce the conditions that would rapidly expand the strength of the NPA, which had only around 90 fighters at that time in Isabela.

It was necessary, Corpus quoted Sison as saying, to intensify the conflict between the NP and the LP, the two factions of the ruling class. If the two could be set against each other in violent fashion, such as by disrupting an LP rally, the ruling class would be weakened and the moderates would react by joining the Left, thereby solving the manpower problem to match the thousands of firearms expected from China.

I wrote a note and asked Corpus and Almendral to see former Justice JBL Reyes, the acting chair of the Commission on Human Rights, with my request for the commission to investigate the Plaza Miranda bombing. Probably because Justice JBL was sickly and quite old, I did not hear back from him.

Driver confessed

Around the same time, several individuals, one of them a close relative of a dear friend who was a pillar of Cosmopolitan Church (of which I have been a member since 1943), voluntarily disclosed to me their participation in what has been described by one writer as "the most shocking political crime the country had ever seen."

My friend's relative, who was a student of engineering in 1971, told me it was he who had served as the driver of Danny Cordero on the fateful day of the bombing.

I listened to his account and cross-examined him. I do not doubt the truth of his revelation. He had no motive to lie to me. Nor did he ask me for any favor, except the request not to disclose his identity, which was understandable considering the danger to his life at the time. He was one of those who agonized over the Plaza Miranda tragedy and the involvement of the leadership of the CPP-NPA, of which he had been a member.

Aborted Senate probe

Two years after my election as Senate President, a privilege speech on the significance of the bombing was delivered by Sen. John Osmeña, himself a victim of the tragedy. The body approved a resolution to investigate the Plaza Miranda attack. Sen. Wigberto Tañada, chair of the justice and blue ribbon committees, was assigned to undertake the probe.

Tañada conducted a number of hearings from September to November 1989. . . .

In mid-August 1997, I asked Tañada why he did not finish the inquiry and come out with a report. His answer was that he found it difficult to conclude the investigation due to the Nov. 30, 1989 coup attempt against the Aquino administration, along with its aftermath and our subsequent preoccupation in the Senate with the US bases question . . . .

However, the transcripts of the testimonies of some witnesses, including Ariel Almendral, Ruben Guevara, and one Pablo Araneta—a companion of Cordero in Isabela and a party to the trial—are still intact. The three were subjected to examination by former Senator Tañada and his colleagues and were asked questions by the counsel of Jose Ma. Sison.

The testimonies of Almendral, Guevara, and Araneta are interesting and useful. There are a few differences in their accounts, but the essence is the same.

The Red Revolution

In mid-1989, a well-written, well-documented book, "The Red Revolution" by Gregg R. Jones, a correspondent of the Washington Post, was published in the United States. Jones lived and traveled with NPA units in Luzon, and talked to the founders and high officials of the CPP in the Philippines and abroad, including Sison, whom he interviewed in Amsterdam.

In Chapters V and VI of his remarkable book, titled "The Ghosts of Plaza Miranda" and "Prisoners in a Gilded Cage," respectively, Jones narrates his conversations with high-ranking CPP-NPA officials about the bombing and the ill-fated arms shipment operations.

Analyzing the dilemma of the CPP-NPA at the time of the bombing, and sorting out the evidence, including the statements of former Central Committee members and Sison's own disclaimer, Jones arrived at the well-grounded conclusion that the bombing was authored by Sison and carried out by Danny Cordero and his two accomplices.

The questions remain: Why the bombing? Were not the Liberal Party members also against Marcos? . . .

Sison's logic

Sison was convinced that the country was on the brink of a revolution. He met with three of his most trusted colleagues in the Central Committee—Secretary General Jose Luneta, Politburo member Ibarra Tubianosa, and the Party's chief finance officer, Fidel Agcaoili—"and laid out a plan for Party operatives to attack an opposition Liberal Party rally."

In the analysis of Sison, the LP would surely blame Marcos for the bombing attack; Marcos would shift the blame to the Communists, but no one except his fanatical followers would believe him. Marcos would then respond with repression, but this would only drive more people into the ranks of the radical movement and into the NPA in the countryside.

The logic of Sison proved correct. Many Liberals and independent-minded persons blamed Marcos for the bombing tragedy; Marcos immediately suspended the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus and ordered the detention of many people, including leaders of various youth and labor organizations.

In September 1972 Marcos declared martial law and ordered the arrest of political rivals and leaders of the opposition, independent-minded delegates to the Constitutional Convention, reputable publishers and journalists, and well-known labor leaders.

Hundreds of moderates and promising young people like Edgar Jopson and Manny Yap, the son of my law partner, went underground and joined the extreme Left. Many of these young people were killed in encounters or summarily executed, or captured and tortured by the military and then disappeared under mysterious circumstances. Evidently, none of them, particularly Manny Yap who would never have condoned the bombing, knew about how the Plaza Miranda bombing was planned and carried out, nor about the *Karagatan* and *Andrea* operations.

Chinese supply line

According to accounts given by former top Party officials to Gregg Jones, Sison was convinced that the ill-equipped NPA would need a reliable rear area that could offer a sanctuary and serve as a lifeline to the outside world. In an archipelagic country like the Philippines, the lack of a friendly rear made life precarious for the NPA.

As Jones' book recounts the facts: In late 1968, Sison sent Jose Luneta to Beijing to explore the possibility of establishing a Chinese supply line only 400 miles across open water from the Philippines.

Luneta, ostensibly working as a Tagalog language expert with Radio Beijing, broached the question of aid for the Filipino guerrillas with Kang Sheng, the Chinese Politburo member in charge of international operations.

The latter agreed in principle to accept an official delegation from the CPP, which would be responsible for arranging any transfers of arms and other assistance.

Luneta returned to the Philippines in 1970. Another trusted aide and Central Committee member, Carlos del Rosario, was sent by Sison to Beijing in December 1970 to finalize the arrangements for a CPP delegation. *(To be continued tomorrow)*

Marcoses, Sison foes laud book

(From page A1)

person of the Partido ng Manggagawang Pilipino, which is identified with the late rebel leader Filemon "Ka Popoy" Lagman.

The spokesperson, who uses the nom de guerre "Patricio Ramirez," was referring to Salonga's decision to forgive those responsible for the attack on a Liberal Party proclamation rally, which left the author partially blind and deaf.

In a telephone interview, Cobarrubias, president of the Marcos Loyalists group, said she was glad that Salonga "had the guts" to "tell and publish the truth."

She did not know whether the former first lady knew about Salonga's book, but she said she would buy it so that she and Ms Marcos could read it.

Salonga alleges that Sison's motive in ordering the bombing was to drive moderates to the Left and expand the ranks of the New People's Army. *(See excerpt from book on Page A1.)*

The allegations are nothing new, Cobarrubias pointed out. She said the Marcos loyalist-operated Truth and Justice Foundation published a book in 1998 with the same claims.

The foundation published "The Plaza Miranda Bombing" by Ruben Guevarra (spelled 'Guevara' in "A Journey"), a former member of the Central Committee and a principal character in Salonga's account of Sison's alleged plot.

Guevara is now an analyst for the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Salonga recounts that Guevara ordered the revolutionary trial and subsequent execution of Danny Cordero, who had boasted of bombing Plaza Miranda on Sison's order.

To Joma: Be like Sin

Ramirez, the breakaway faction's spokesperson, claimed that the CPP Central Committee knew the truth about the bombing.

"If (Jaime) Cardinal Sin and the Catholic Church could ask absolution from the poor, so, too, must Sison and the CPP, from the Filipino people," he said, referring to Church leaders' apologies for not addressing the needs of poor people who participated in "Edsa III."

He said the cadres and members of the CPP must demand from their leadership an accounting of the party's alleged role in the Plaza Miranda bombing.

Ramirez said that all Sison could cite in his defense "is the lame excuse that the reactionary courts have not convicted him of the crime and the feeble alibi that accusing him means exculpating Marcos for the sin of martial law."

He said the root of the debate and split within the CPP was its leaders' "refusal to face and account for the mistakes of the revolutionary movement . . . including the (crime) of the Plaza Miranda bombing."

Leave it to the law

In her phone interview with the INQUIRER, Cobarrubias also took the opportunity to express alarm over National Democratic Front leader Luis Jalandoni's recent statements. Jalandoni had said Ms Marcos must pay her debts to the people—like the late Cagayan Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo, who was killed by an NPA hit squad.

Cobarrubias said Jalandoni's statement was tantamount to a death threat.

"No one has the right to kill anyone. Let us leave the punishment of those who committed crimes to the law," she said.

Nearly 10,000 human rights abuses victims still wait for the Marcoses to pay them damages awarded by a US court years ago.

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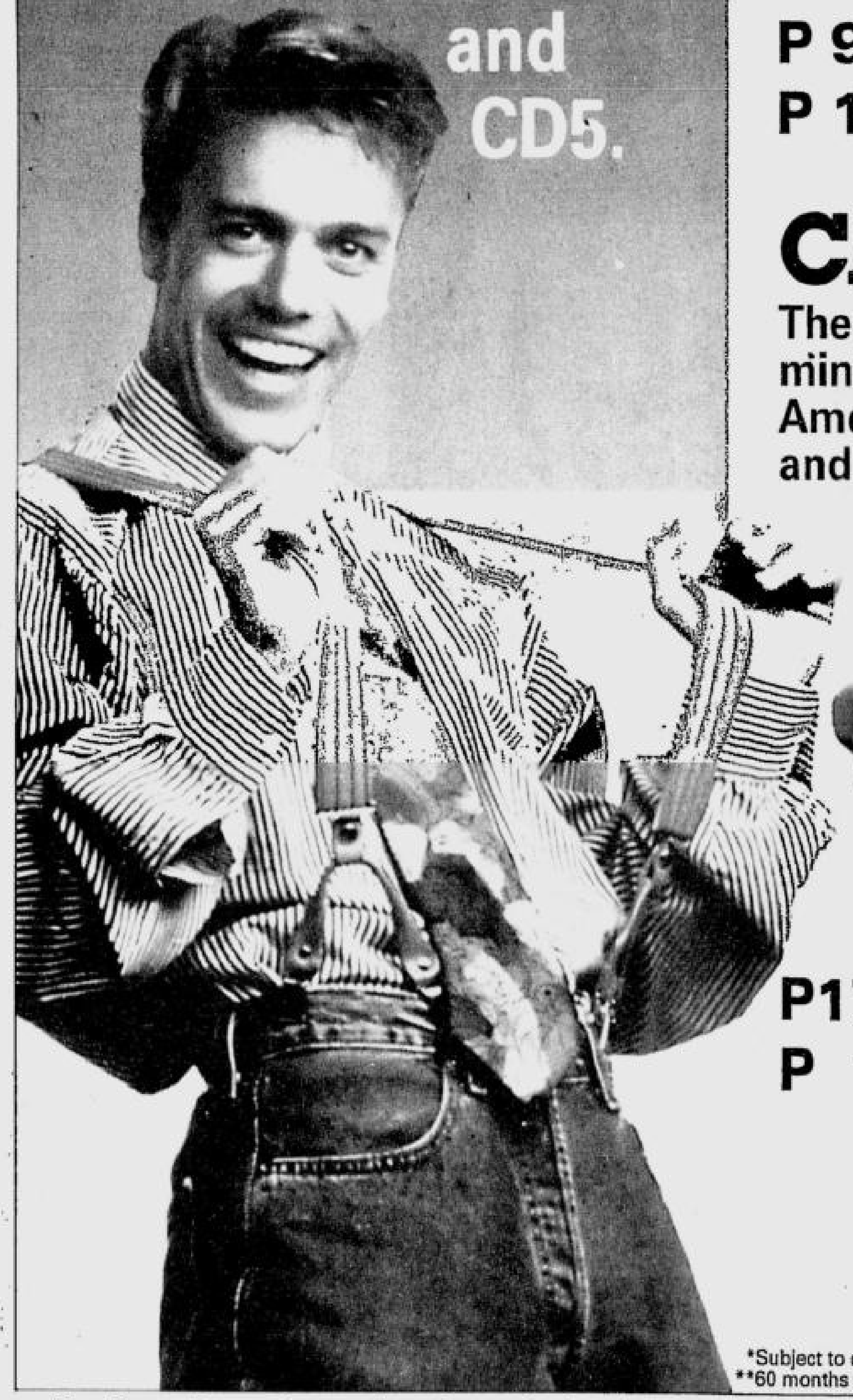

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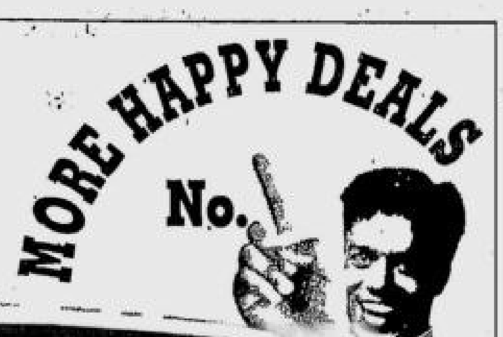

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₱5-M ransom paid for teenage hostage

(From page A1)

claimed that Lim had negotiated for the release of the two hostages.

The "go-between" yesterday identified the "couriers" of Uy's ransom money as "Step and Jorge who both come from (Camp) Crame." Camp Crame is the main headquarters of the Philippine National Police.

The source, a known local leader, said Lim allegedly delivered the money to an undisclosed place in Basilan on June 10.

"(Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Ahmad alias Abu) Sabaya called me last Monday night (June 11) to inform me that the release was postponed because Kimberly had to be with a companion. But he confirmed he had received the ransom," the source added.

Officials said Ganzon, 50, and two other hostages—Uy and a local Muslim preacher—were freed four days ago but had to hike through the jungles for two days before reaching the provincial capital on Saturday.

The release of Ganzon and the girl brought to 11 the number of the freed hostages out of the original 20, including three Americans, who were seized from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan.

Nine were later freed and two were killed as President Macapagal-Arroyo sent at least 5,000 troops to hunt the bandits.

The Abu Sayyaf has since snatched four hospital staff members and 15 plantation workers in two raids in Basilan. The military says the bandits intend to use their captives as human shields.

Governor Akbar said the ransom payment had resulted in the swelling of Abu Sayyaf bandits in Basilan.

Sayyaf base

"At first, there were 50 to 60 of them. Now, they are more than 300 men with high-powered firearms," Akbar said.

He disclosed that the bandits had established "contacts" in almost all the seven towns of the province.

"They have established a mass base, with arms, and this is all because of the ransom payment. *Itigil na sana yan* (I wish the practice of paying a ransom is stopped)," Akbar said.

Basilan's prelature administrator Fr. Martin Jumoad also condemned the reported payment of ransom.

Jumoad said money could have been involved in the release of Kimberly and Ganzon.

"Well if they were really freed (without ransom), then praise the Lord. But when it comes to money, that is something else, because we don't believe that they will release hostages without any financial consideration," he said.

Basilan Rep. Gerry Salapuddin described the kidnapping and negotiations in the province as a "scripted drama."

Bandits, families talk

"Just imagine, a satellite-to-satellite phone communication between the kidnappers and victims' families," he said.

Salapuddin said the government had no need for negotiators. "The kidnappers can go directly to the relatives of the victims," he said.

But Ganzon said no ransom was paid for their release.

He said Sabaya claimed he was willing to release two hostages as a "gesture of goodwill to Malacañang and to allow the entry of a Malaysian ex-senator to help in the negotiations."

"So I think Abu Sabaya, after consulting with his group, decided to let me and Kim go. Kim being the youngest and I being the oldest," he said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had earlier said the demand was "academic" as Sabaya had claimed to have killed American hostage Guillermo Sobero and called off negotiations.

Akbar claimed he knew where Janjalani's grave was and would be glad to lead reporters to the site.

Janjalani with hostages

But Ganzon said Janjalani was with their group all the time.

He did not mention if Janjalani was wounded or needed medical help.

Ganzon, a lawyer, also belied reports that Sabaya had been wounded.

He described Janjalani as a "very reserved person" and soft-spoken, who simply sat around with them during occasional discussions.

"Khadaffy would just stay beside us on his hammock, smiling," Ganzon recalled.

But sometimes, he added, the bandit leader would give an opinion, which was usually incisive.

"Sometimes, he would interject some statements, but by and large he was a really a reserved person," the lawyer said.

He said Janjalani employed democracy in leading the group. He said the kidnap gang worked as a committee in almost every decision it made, including the setting of price tags for their hostages.

As for Sabaya, Ganzon described him as "definitely a man of vision."

Sabaya 'kenkoy'

He said Sabaya was also "*kenkoy*," who took most things in jest.

But Ganzon said Sabaya was "serious in his vision" to establish an Islamic state.

"They say their demand is an age-old problem. It dates back to Spanish times. Their ultimate goal is to establish an Islamic state," Ganzon explained.

He said the group viewed people from Luzon and the Visayas as "preventing the establishment of an Islamic state."

"Anybody hindering the establishment of an Islamic state is their enemy," Ganzon quoted the bandit as saying.

He said the kidnappers' ages ranged from 22 to 25 years old.

Ganzon said the Abu Sayyaf bandits had treated him and his fellow captives "surprisingly well."

"The women were not touched. The only time they touched the women was whenever they fell while we were walking," Ganzon said in an interview with Radio Mindanao Network on Saturday.

"*Hindi kami sinaktan ni minsan* (They did not hurt us)," he added. Ganzon also said the hostages were fed first.

Still, Ganzon said he did not patronize the bandits.

He said no matter how well the bandits treated them, the "very hostile" environment in the mountains took a toll on the hostages' health.

He said it was the environment, not the captors, from which they received a beating.

He said they spent three days floating on the high seas because the bandits had failed in several attempts to enter Basilan.

He said they took a fishing boat and tried to enter Zamboanga. But because the coast of the city was heavily guarded, they tried to look for another safe haven in Tawi-Tawi. They finally settled in Basilan.

"It was a very horrifying experience. It was raining we were so hungry. We were scared to death," he said.

He denied that the bandits used the hostages as human shields, saying the bandits even covered them from possible stray bullets.

Ganzon disclosed that Sabaya had treated Kimberly as if she was his own daughter.

Medical help

Ganzon appealed for medical assistance for the hostages.

"They are suffering a lot. They are deteriorating fast," he said. "If the President allows the visit of the Red Cross, the medical staff can look after these people. They're getting sick because of the very adverse weather," he said.

Ganzon said they were, most of the time, drenched in rainwater and "sleep under the stars."

He said the hostages were not eating well because they have to be constantly on the run.

"A lot of us have been traumatized," he added.

Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo expressed confidence that the hostages would be released in a "reasonable time."

"The hostage crisis in Basilan will probably be resolved not later than next month," he told reporters before he spoke at a meeting of the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Iloilo City.

Romulo attributed the delay in resolving the three-week-old hostage crisis to the "difficult terrain."

He warned that a prolonged standoff with the bandits would hinder the country's economic recovery.

"We cannot get on with the real business of government, which is our economy and poverty alleviation, unless we resolve this crisis," the former finance secretary said. ***With reports from Carlito Pablo in Manila and Nestor Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau***

New solon readies g-strings

(From page A1)

a g-string (*bahag*) and native Igorot attire.

Mauricio Domogan, the outgoing Baguio mayor, said he would proudly wear the g-string during the ceremony once the new representatives are asked to wear their indigenous attires.

"I am not ashamed. I will not be ashamed to put this attire. And if ever (they ask us to wear our native attires), I am always ready (to comply)," he said, while fitting a g-string in the mayor's office here last week.

A member of the Kankanaey and Bago tribes of the Cordillera, Domogan, a three-term mayor of Baguio, has been recognized by top government officials for dressing up in his native attire on important occasions and during conferences.

In 1999, then President Joseph Estrada teased Domogan as the "sexiest mayor alive" during the Luzon-wide assembly of the Philippine Councilors League.

Estrada ogled at Domogan, who was dressed in a Bago gear with colorful feathered headdress, an Igorot chest gear with wild boar tusks, and a thick g-string.

Domogan said he only wore his g-string when attending big events and if the occasion called for the presentation of culture.

For the rich

The newly elected congressman has five sets of g-strings, two of which were heirlooms passed on by his grandfather.

Domogan said he acquired his first *bahag* in 1971 as an inheritance from his late grandfather Pedro Gamsao when he was a third year law student.

During an INQUIRER photo session, Domogan wore a *binurdaan*, a thick g-string with intricate knits of black, red and yellow threads. In ancient times, only rich members of the tribe wore this design because they were the only ones who could afford it, according to Domogan.

But he said the *binurdaan* was now affordable and could easily be acquired at the Easter Weaving School here, where most of the weavers are Kankanaeys.

Statement

Domogan said his wearing a g-string in Congress is not only a political statement for the indigenous tribes in the country but also an assertion of issues that concern the Cordillera and its people.

One issue that should be addressed "with the help of the g-string" is autonomy for the region, he said.

The proposed Cordillera Autonomous Region was never realized after the Cordillerans, in plebiscites held in 1990 and 1998, rejected two laws creating the region.

"Wearing a g-string might help put pressure and create an impact to push legislation and other issues in the House of Representatives," he said.

Should Domogan wear his g-string in Congress, he would not be the first Cordillera representative to do so.

It was the late Benguet Rep. Alfredo Lam-en who held that recognition for delivering a privilege speech in Congress in 1968 in a g-string.

Lam-en took the Igorots' cause against discrimination on the House floor. He chided then Foreign Secretary Carlos P. Romulo for saying that "Igorots are not Filipinos."

Domogan, however, is not about to be affected by the anticipated comparisons between him and Lam-en. But he said he was open to criticisms.

Distinct styles

"Lam-en had his own style. I hope I can come up with my own style that can depict my tribe," he said.

Asked if he knew of any Cordillera representative who would wear g-strings during Congress' opening, Domogan said: "I am sure no one because it is not easy to wear a g-string."

In Mountain Province, Representative-elect Roy Pilando told a press forum in May that he would not wear a g-string in the inauguration.

Pilando laughed when asked if he would wear a g-string in Congress. He said he might be "out of place."

"You are not in Congress to display your culture. You are there to display your skills, not culture, because that is not the Folk Arts Theater," he said.

BAGUIO Rep. Mauricio Domogan in his g-string. E.V. ESPIRITU

Gov't-NDF talks may resume in August

(From page A1)

peak tourism season. Parliamentary elections are scheduled in September.

"The Norwegian government also has its own limitations so the only viable period is the second week of August," he said.

The government panel called for an indefinite recess on Wednesday—-two days ahead of the formal end of the second round of talks—in protest over Aguinaldo's killing by an NPA "death squad" in Tuguegarao City.

The second round of talks focused on the implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.

The first round, which dealt with social and economic reforms, ended on a positive note in April.

"We are disappointed because we were unable to complete our discussions," Bello said.

Jose Ma. Sison, founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines and NDF peace consultant, threatened to pull out of the talks altogether as he accused the government of effectively scuttling the peace process.

Sison said Aguinaldo was killed for his alleged blood debts to the people. He accused the former intelligence officer of deposed dictator Ferdinand Marcos of being behind the disappearance of leftists during the martial law years in the 1970s.

'Gross insult'

NDF chief negotiator Luis Jalandoni said the government panel's move was "a gross insult" as it was done "in memory of a rabid human rights violator and torturer."

Bello, however, said "the recess is not intended to defend Aguinaldo as a person."

"It could have been anybody. We felt the timing was bad because it (killing) came when the two panels were talking across the negotiating table," he said.

"The peace process is very important and from the very start we have agreed to extend gestures to show goodwill and confidence building so that we can provide a good climate to the talks.

"How can you talk if they are killing behind our backs?"

President Macapagal-Arroyo also told a local television station on Sunday that the peace talks were only temporarily suspended as she expressed confidence a political settlement would be reached soon.

"We call this a recess. If it's a recess, there is a resumption. That is what our peace panel is saying," she said.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said Ms Macapagal was scheduled to meet with the government panel after her visit to Basilan and Palawan today.

"Nothing is definite yet," Tiglao said, adding the President has yet to go over the panel's report. ***With reports from Martin P. Marfil and AFP***

Sobero . . .

(From page A1)

celebrate his birthday with Marife on May 29.

"Why would Guillermo bother to tell his estranged wife his whereabouts if they had already been separated," Virginia said.

Sobero had promised to marry Marife as soon as he gets his divorce, which was scheduled for decision on May 31, she said.

Engagement ring

She disclosed that the American gave her daughter two diamond-studded engagement rings in the presence of her family.

"We let our daughter decide for herself. She accepted the engagement but she had opted to study a computer course first before getting married," Virginia said as she controlled her emotions.

"Guillermo said he was willing to wait until our daughter finished her second degree."

Marife finished a two-year food service course at the Palawan State University here but she still wanted to pursue a computer science degree, according to her mother.

She said Sobero was very handsome, very kind and sweet.

Even if there was a big age difference between the two, Marife also fell in love with the American, according to Virginia. Marife just turned 22 on June 12.

The captive's eldest sister Rosemarie said Sobero was very lucky because Maria Fe never had a boyfriend before.

"At first, she used to hide from Guillermo. She is very choosy when it comes to men but Guillermo was very persistent and very kind to her. They became very good friends," Rosemarie said.

"I just can't understand why some media people portrayed my sister as the villain," she said.

E-mails

Virginia narrated how the two got very close. After Sobero met Maria Fe at Dos Palmas, the two exchanged e-mail messages and talked on the phone.

The mother said the American was smitten with Marife's charm and maturity. "I knew everything because Marife told me," she said.

When the American came back on May 25, the whole Rosadeno family was at the airport to welcome him.

They talked about Sobero and Marife's relationship and the family eventually gave the two its blessing.

A day after that, Sobero and Maria Fe went to Dos Palmas for a vacation.

"It pains me to remember that day. Marife was also very emotional. She held her father very tight before they left for Dos Palmas," Virginia said.

Now, she and her husband Catalino, 61, are still hoping that Marife and Sobero will be freed. She said her husband cried often in front of their daughter's picture.

"She is the youngest of five girls and five boys, that is why she is my husband's favorite," Virginia said.

She noted that Marife was their only hope, as her husband could no longer work as a fisherman because of a kidney ailment. But the Abu Sayyaf took away that hope.

"My husband is bent on committing suicide because of what happened. I cannot accept losing a daughter," the mother said.

She is calling on the government to settle for negotiations with the Abu Sayyaf because she doesn't want Marife and Sobero and the rest of the hostages to be placed in great danger.

Virginia expressed the hope that she could meet with President Macapagal-Arroyo during the latter's visit in Puerto Princesa.

The President flies to Palawan and Lamitan town in Basilan today to help prop up the tourism industry, which is reeling from the hostage crisis, and to meet with her field commanders.

"The trip to Palawan is intended to send the message to tourists that even with the Abu Sayyaf problem, it's a place that the President would go to," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao told reporters in Manila.

"She (also) wants to find out exactly the conditions on the ground, to confer with her commanders," Tiglao said. ***With a report from Martin P. Marfil***

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					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
CEBU	5J - 557	Daily	0130	0240	P2,608	P2,049	P1,999
	5J - 559	Daily	0500	0610	P2,608	P2,309	
	5J - 561	Daily	0700	0810			
	5J - 563	Daily	0900	1010			
	5J - 565	Daily	1100	1210			
	5J - 567	Daily	1300	1410			
	5J - 569	Daily	1500	1610			
	5J - 571	Daily	1700	1810			
DAVAO	5J - 961	Daily	0430	0610	P3,307	P2,919	P2,399
	5J - 963	Daily	1020	1200			
	5J - 965	Daily	1240	1420			
	5J - 567/597*	Daily	1300	1540			
	5J - 967	Daily	1600	1740			
CAGAYAN de ORO	5J - 381	Daily	0510	0635	P3,295	P2,919	P2,399
	5J - 383	Daily	0930	1055			
	5J - 385	Daily	1200	1325			
TACLOBAN	5J - 651	Daily	0610	0720	P2,718	P2,419	P1,999
	5J - 655	Daily	1210	1320			
	5J - 657	Daily	1400	1510			
ILOILO	5J - 451	Daily	0505	0605	P2,498	P2,199	P1,949
	5J - 455	Daily	0955	1055			
	5J - 457	Daily	1510	1610			
BACOLOD	5J - 473	M/T/Th/Sat	0510	0610	P2,498	P2,199	P1,949
	5J - 473	W/F/Sun	0620	0720			
	5J - 475	Daily	1000	1100			
	5J - 477	Daily	1310	1410			
	5J - 479	Daily	1630	1730			
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 851	Daily	0520	0650	P3,295	P2,639	P2,399
	5J - 563/431*	M/W/Th/Sat	0700	1000			
ROXAS	5J - 373	Daily	0530	0630	P2,279	P1,979	P1,799
DUMAGUETE	5J - 627	Daily	1340	1450	P2,608	P2,309	P1,999
KALIBO	5J - 339	Daily	0900	0950	P2,608	P2,309	P1,999

*via Cebu

ORIGIN: CEBU

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 558	Daily	0400	0510	P2,608	P2,049	P1,999
	5J - 560	Daily	0700	0810	P2,608	P2,309	
	5J - 562	Daily	0900	1010			
	5J - 564	Daily	1100	1210			
	5J - 566	Daily	1300	1410			
	5J - 568	Daily	1500	1610			
	5J - 570	Daily	1700	1810			
	5J - 572	Daily	1900	2010			
DAVAO	5J - 593	Daily	0800	0850	P2,339	P2,039	P1,799
	5J - 597	Daily	1450	1540			
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 431	M/W/Th/Sat	0905	1000	P2,388	P2,089	P1,799
ILOILO	5J - 164	Daily	1630	1705	P1,799	P1,599	P1,499
BACOLOD	5J - 126	M/T/Th/Sat	0810	0840	P1,599	P1,399	P1,299
	5J - 128	W/F/Sun	1110	1140			

ORIGIN: DAVAO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 962	Daily	0720	0900	P3,307	P2,919	P2,399
	5J - 594/564*	Daily	0930	1210			
	5J - 964	Daily	1240	1420			
	5J - 966	Daily	1620	1800			
	5J - 968	Daily	1820	2000			
CEBU	5J - 594	Daily	0930	1020	P2,339	P2,039	P1,799
	5J - 598	Daily	1500	1550			
ILOILO	5J - 598/164*	Daily	1500	1705	P3,295	P2,839	P2,549
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 393	T/F/Sun	0910	1010	P2,388	P2,089	P1,799

*via Cebu

▨ New flight schedule

ORIGIN: CAGAYAN DE ORO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 382	Daily	0715	0840	P3,295	P2,919	P2,399
	5J - 384	Daily	1135	1300			
	5J - 386	Daily	1405	1530			

ORIGIN: TACLOBAN

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 652	Daily	0800	0910	P2,718	P2,419	P1,999
	5J - 656	Daily	1400	1510			
	5J - 658	Daily	1550	1700			

ORIGIN: ILOILO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 456	Daily	1135	1235	P2,498	P2,199	P1,949
	5J - 458	Daily	1650	1750			
	5J - 462	Daily	1800	1900			
CEBU	5J - 161	Daily	0645	0720	P1,799	P1,599	P1,499
DAVAO	5J - 161/593*	Daily	0645	0850	P3,295	P2,839	P2,549

*via Cebu

ORIGIN: BACOLOD

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 474	M/T/Th/Sat	0930	1030	P2,498	P2,199	P1,949
	5J - 474	W/F/Sun	0810	0910			
	5J - 476	Daily	1150	1250			
	5J - 478	Daily	1500	1600			
	5J - 480	Daily	1820	1920			
CEBU	5J - 125	M/T/Th/Sat	0700	0730	P1,599	P1,399	P1,299
	5J - 127	W/F/Sun	1230	1300			

ORIGIN: ZAMBOANGA

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 852	Daily	1050	1220	P3,295	P2,639	P2,399
	5J - 432/562*	M/W/Th/Sat	0730	1010			
CEBU	5J - 432	M/W/Th/Sat	0730	0825	P2,388	P2,089	P1,799
DAVAO	5J - 394	T/F/Sun	0730	0830	P2,388	P2,089	P1,799

*via Cebu

ORIGIN: ROXAS

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 374	Daily	0710	0810	P2,279	P1,979	P1,799

ORIGIN: DUMAGUETE

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 628	Daily	1530	1640	P2,608	P2,309	P1,999

ORIGIN: KALIBO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 340	Daily	1030	1120	P2,608	P2,309	P1,999

NOTES:
- **All fares do not include government tax and are subject to government approval.**
- **Child's fare and other regular discounts are applicable against Normal Fares only.**
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Davao entry gains semis

DAVAO—Club netter Ed Angelo Diez routed Juan Carlo Pantua 8-1 and Ryan Bendijo 8-2 to march into the semifinal of the boys' 14-under division in the Adidas Tennis Challenge 2001 here Saturday at the Flores Village Tennis Club. The netfest is being organized by the CTW and supported by Milo and PTV-4 Saturday weekly show Sports Kids.

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

3 finalists for RP squad

ATHENS, Greece—Team Caltex Philippines will have three finalists after it split its two remaining semifinals Saturday in the International Cup Acropolis amateur boxing championships here. Bantamweight Ferdie Gamo beat Mark Moran of England, 9-6, but fellow rookie David Gopong lost to Australian Daniel Geale, 0-15, and settled for the bronze medal. The other RP finalists are lightflyweight Lhyven Salazar and flyweight Rene Villaluz.

SMB nips Red Bull

GAMES WEDNESDAY *(Philsports)*
5:15 p.m. — Tanduay vs Ginebra
7:30 p.m. — SLR vs Alaska

By MARC ANTHONY REYES

DANNY Ildefonso answered Batang Red Bull's frantic endgame surge by calmly hitting four free throws that gave San Miguel Beer an 87-83 victory last night in the PBA Commissioner's Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Though the Thunder dragged the Beermen to a well-fought game using their big men, it was the defending champions' poise that prevailed in the end as they posted their third win in four games.

Antonio Lang, Mick Pennisi and Devonn Harp created mismatches underneath, allowing the Thunder to lead by as many as 13 points but no one among the big guys could step up once the Beermen started to make their move.

Instead, it was Ato Agustin who kept Red Bull in the thick of the fight, hitting a long jumper and a three-pointer in the final 38 seconds. Unfortunately, Ildefonso countered them in the free throw line to hand the Thunder's second loss in four games.

"It's really hard to match up with Red Bull," said Ildefonso, who took the cudgels from Danny Seigle after the latter was rendered ineffective from the outside alternately by Harp and Pennisi.

Ildefonso scored 10 of his 16 points in the fourth quarter and got a lot of help from Nic Belasco and Nate Johnson in putting away the game. Belasco scored seven of his 17 in the fourth aside from making 12 rebounds, while Johnson piled up 41 points.

Mobiline routed Shell, 84-71, in the second game to improve to 2-1. The Turbochargers fell to 1-3.

Scores:

SMB 87 – Johnson 41, Belasco 17, Ildefonso 16, Pena 6, Seigle 5, Abuda 2, Victoria 0, Lago 0, Racela 0.

RED BULL 83 – Lang 40, Agustin 14, Harp 8, Miller 7, Valenzuela 6, Pennisi 4, Mendoza 2, Raymundo 2, Torion 0, Briones 0.

Quarters: 15-24, 39-39, 60-63, 87-83.

Tanduay row over

THE CONTROVERSY surrounding the unsettled contracts of former Tanduay head coach Alfrancis Chua and assistant coach Itoy Esguerra is over, PBA chair Ignatius Yenko announced yesterday.

Yenko was tasked by the PBA Board in its meeting last May to mediate between the parties and resolve the controversy.

"I am happy to announce that the issue between the two parties has been resolved amicably ," Yenko said.

BRYANT hoists the championship trophy shortly after the Lakers arrived at the Los Angeles International Airport. AP

Lakers, 76ers face critical decisions in coming season

PHILADELPHIA—The champagne has barely been uncorked and already the Los Angeles Lakers and Philadelphia 76ers face critical decisions about next season.

The Lakers won their second consecutive NBA Finals four games to one with a 108-96 triumph over the 76ers here Friday, completing a 15-1 post-season run that was the best in NBA playoff history.

NBA Finals Most Valuable Player Shaquille O'Neal, playmaking guard Kobe Bryant and eight-time NBA champion coach Phil Jackson appear set for the Lakers next season.

But three veterans with a total of 13 NBA titles among them might be gone. The Lakers must decide if they want to re-sign starting forward Horace Grant, guard Ron Harper and reserve sharpshooter Robert Horry.

"There are some decisions this organization is going to have to make," Jackson said. "A lot of that has to do with how do you move on and how do you stay fresh and still milk the experience, the veteran years, you have with players."

The 76ers face bigger woes. NBA Coach of the Year Larry Brown might take a year off or retire. Team president Pat Croce might not return. And center Dikembe Mutombo, the NBA Defensive Player of the Year, is a free agent.

"I'm not sure they will be replaceable," 76er guard Eric Snow said. "Pat has done a great job of running the team. And Coach Brown, I don't want to even think about him leaving."

The Lakers replaced Glen Rice after last season with solid rebounder Grant, a member of three title teams in Chicago under Jackson and former teammate of O'Neal in Orlando. He turns 36 in July after 13 NBA seasons.

Harper, 36, won three crowns in Chicago. Horry, 30, took two with Houston. Both played key roles in both Laker titles.

Harper, a 15-year NBA veteran, helped mentor Bryant and Horry, in his eighth season, hit crucial three-pointers at key moments all year.

"I'm extremely happy we got Horace this year to aid us," Jackson said. "Ronnie proved to be very valuable in the playoffs. But we know we need some distance and some youth in the legs in the guard core next year. We haven't thought about Ron coming back but he has expressed some interest."

Laker general manager Mitch Kupchak plans on making few changes to a championship lineup.

"We will have a couple of tough decisions but my guess is the group you see right now will be back next year," Kupchak said.

Philadelphia's Brown coached in his first final after 18 NBA seasons. But after guiding the US Olympic team through 1999 qualifying and assisting last year in Sydney, he is only now getting his first break in two years.

"I might need a rest," Brown said.

Brown, 60, has had health problems and doctors told him to ease stress, a request followed by a tension-packed playoff run as the 76ers were pushed to the limit in the playoff quarter-finals and semi-finals.

"Of course we all want him to come back," Snow said. "We're going to let him know that. I think he knows. But it's too selfish of us to try to force him into a decision of what is best for him and his family."

Mutombo, who turns 35 in nine days, was obtained from Atlanta in a mid-season trade. The Democratic Republic of Congo native went on the lead the NBA in rebounds, reach his first NBA Finals and became a fan favorite. *AFP*

Champs get warm welcome

LOS ANGELES—A visibly tired Shaquille O'Neal and a relaxed Kobe Bryant lumbered off a chartered flight to the cheers of a few dozen fans and relatives in a warm homecoming to mark the Los Angeles Lakers second consecutive NBA championship.

"It's just great to come home," Bryant said Saturday after holding up the championship trophy for news cameras and getting a kiss and bouquet from his wife, Vanessa Laine.

The team returned from Philadelphia after winning three straight games from the 76ers, including a 108-96 victory Friday night that clinched the title.

Amid tight security, the plane landed on a seldom-used runway at Los Angeles International Airport. Most team members headed directly for their cars in a nearby parking lot after waving to the 40 screaming fans gathered behind a nearby fence.

Laker Rick Fox said he was still savoring the victory.

"It will sink in Monday," Fisher said.

A downtown victory parade is planned for Monday to celebrate the championship.

Police said Saturday they had made several arrests on misdemeanor charges after the Lakers clinched the championship the previous evening but declined to give specifics until a full report is issued Tuesday.

The low number of arrests is a reversal from last year's post-championship melee. *AP*

Gems halt Blades; Knights post record

GAMES WEDNESDAY *(Araullo Gym, Cabanatuan City)*
3:00 p.m.—Socsargen vs Nueva Ecija
USLS Gym, Bacolod City
5:30 p.m.—Batangas vs Negros

By ROY LUARCA

CEBU CITY—Matthew Mitchell found an unlikely ally in Carlos Sayon last night as the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems thwarted the LBC Batangas Blades, 96-90, in the Metropolitan Basketball Association First Phase at the Cebu City Coliseum here.

Defying the help-out defense thrown against him, Mitchell clustered seven points to push the Gems ahead even as the seldom-used Sayon stole off Alex Compton and completed a Blitz 3 to seal their fourth win in five starts, 93-85, with 45.5 seconds to go.

The Blades, who dropped a 12-point run to regain control at 81-76, tasted their first defeat after three victories.

Homer Se also played a key role for the Gems with 21 points and shared best player of the game honors with Mitchell, who finished with 19 points and 16 rebounds despite a recent bout with the flu.

Earlier, the Andok's San Juan Knights reverted to their old deadly form and routed the Davao Eagles in a record-breaking fashion.

Employing a fluid running game throughout, the Knights scored a league-best 140 points against the Eagles' 95 to rip the 137 output set by the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems against themselves (105) Friday night.

Led by skywalker Bruce Dacia and streak shooter Chris Calaguio, the Knights breached the century mark in the third quarter which ended at 103-67, another new mark in productivity.

MBA games are being shown live over PTV 4 Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays from 3-8 p.m.

The scores:

SAN JUAN 140—Dacia 31, Calaguio 29, Alcanara 19, Newton 13, Victolero 11, Reavis 9, Castillo 8, Capobres 7, Aying 7, Rodriguez 6, Rodriguez F. 0, Banares 0.

DAVAO 95—Bernardo 22, Marata 16, Manigo 15, Dela Rosa 12, Simon 9, Menor 8, Almonte 6, Calaiao 5, Comcha 2, Daja 0, Bonleon 0.

Quarters: 26-23, 68-46, 103-67, 140-95.

Asuncions whip badminton foes

KENNIE and Kennevic Asuncion turned the JVC Open badminton championships into a family affair yesterday by sweeping the open singles and mixed doubles titles at the Glorietta.

So dominating was Kennie as she streaked to her eighth straight national title following an easy 11-1, 11-1 conquest of Vanessa Tanco in the tournament sponsored by JVC Philippines in coordination with IMG Manila.

"I just played my usual game but I have to admit, I worked hard for this," said Kennie, 24, and the national champion since 1994.

Kennevic, on the other hand, walked the tightrope in the second set before subduing Jaime Llanes, 15-5, 15-10, to bag the men's open singles crown in the event also backed up by Spurway Enterprises, Bingo Bonanza Corp., Paraflex, Nike, Victor, Tokyo Tokyo and K-lite 103.5 FM.

The Asuncions were similarly overpowering in the mixed doubles finals. They routed the Philippine National Police duo of Rodel Bartolome and Paola Obañana, 15-10, 15-1.

Kennie also eyed a third title—the women's doubles—which was scheduled late yesterday. She is partnered with commissioner Weena Lim, the only Filipino Olympian in badminton, of the Philippine Sports Commission. Their finals match was scheduled late yesterday afternoon.

Unlike Kennie who never trailed in her match against the Manila polo Club bet—who even lagged behind 10-0 in the first set-Kennevic had to stave off Llanes's stubborn stand in the second set.

Llanes, the fourth seed who ousted his top-seeded brother and Air Force teammate Melvin in the quarterfinals, led his third-seeded foe, 3-0 and then 6-3 in the second set.

Thunderbird tipped to win

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

"IT WILL be hard making a prediction," said Big Dome owner Jorge "Nene" Araneta in an interview last Saturday, "but I am keeping my fingers crossed, hoping to make it twice in a row."

Of course he was just being modest. Truth to tell, many aficionados have tripped Nene Araneta to win the 2001 World Slasher 8-Cock Derby which gets going today at the Araneta Coliseum and repeat his stirring triumph in the first leg held last January. In that kick-off leg, Araneta teamed up with American Roger Roberts of Georgia, fielding the Hatchets-Thunderbird Firefly IV and emerging co-champions with Super Ninja-Bulljack of Filipino Tony Trebol and Ryoichi Saito of Japan with seven wins against a lone loss. The winningest name in local cockfighting history, Nene Araneta previously won the World Slasher Derby in 1994, 1995 and 1999.

For this year's World Slasher Derby, Nene's awesome Thunderbird battle cocks will face stiff opposition from the tested bloodlines of American cocker-breeders such as Bobby Jones of Texas, Tom Cooper and Jeff Hudspeth of Cedar Creek fame, Johnny Philips, Brad Padgett of Oregon and Chuck Berry of Oklahoma. Not to be discounted are the entries of Filipino expats led by Guam's Sedfrey Linsangan, Emmet San Juan of California, the Miñoza brothers, Roy from Canada and Farley who is based in California. Among the local participants, those expected to figure prominently are resurging PBRJ Binangonan of Ito Yñares and Boyboy Roa, current leaders in the roller-coaster Cocker of the Year race and Geran of engineer Gerry Fevidal. Also the entries to watch are former World Slasher champion and back-to-back COTY winner Jun Santiago of the Firefly Group, Pampanga's pride Jun and Rudy Jingco, Danding Cojuangco, Patrick Antonio, the revered James Chiongbian, Peping Ricafort of PTK Yucatan and PTK Country Road, respected lawyer Rudy Salud, Lito Orillaza, the Madlambayan brothers, hotelier Biboy Enriquez, longtime partners Peping Cojuangco and Esting Teopaco, Eddie and Bomboy Araneta of Liza Galore fame and Alex and Gerry Escalona and RT 114 Geran Mapalad.

* * *

PAT ON THE BACK. I doff my hat to the organizers of values-oriented sporting events like Saturday's relaunching of the Palaro ng Batang Lansangan at the Rizal Memorial Track and Field Stadium, the JVC Open Badminton Championships which ended yesterday at the Glorietta in Makati City and next Sunday's Manila elimination race for the 25th Milo Marathon at the PICC grounds in Pasay City. These events will not only keep the citizenry, especially the youth physically fit, but will also serve as a vehicle to keep them away from drug abuse and other vices.

* * *

For inquiries, call fax/phone (044) 933-1214 or EasyCall 141-267284.

TANAY RALLY

Carlo Gutang and co-driver Choy Mabunay in a Toyota Celica (above) negotiate a tight right-hand turn in the recently held Petron Rally of Tanay. The team won third overall with a time of 45.18.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

GOLF: Senior PGA - The Countrywide Tradition, First Round at 8 a.m. (r), Final Round at 10 p.m. on Star Sports

Golfglobe 2001 at 10 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

This is the PGA Tour at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

U.S. Open Golf Championship, Final Round at 8 p.m. (r) on ESPN

BASKETBALL: This Week in the NBA at 11:30 a.m. on CNN

BASEBALL: MLB - New York Yankees vs New York Mets at 8 a.m. on ESPN

ACES LEAGUE

The Alpha Seven Trades Inc./Kamel Systems Inc. team (above) is among the teams which took part in the ongoing 2001 Aces Basketball League at the Arellano gym in Legarda, Manila. Standing from left to right are Dominador Jamorabon, Arnel Glo, Romy Rejuso, Karl Ryan Kaw, Ana Baluyot (muse), Jenny Chiang, Louie Kaw, Barnaby Kaw, Alcindor Kaw, Gerry Gollon, Achit Kaw (team manager) and Johnny Chiang. Seating from left to right are Roel Oscar Soriano, Cesar Abano, Oliver Cruz, Alain Gabarda, Wilson Go and Jose Tablate Jr.

Wind Blown heads 'Copa' cast

THE MUCH-AWAITED 22nd staging of the Gran Copa de Manila racing festival, an unprecedented five-day lineup of special races, will be held from June 20-24 at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

"The 22nd renewal of the prestigious Gran Copa de Manila racefest is part of our commitment to provide our patrons and direct players with an ideal venue to showcase the best that the industry could offer," said Alfonso Reyno Jr., president of host Manila Jockey Club Inc.

Highlight of the racing spectacle is Gran Copa de Manila Day on June 24 which coincides with the annual Araw ng Maynila festivities marking the 430th founding anniversary of the City of Manila.

The big day will be marked by the running of the twin-bill 22nd Gran Copa de Manila Stakes Races—two 1,900-meter events showcasing today's the best locally-bred gallopers.

Local track sensation Wind Blown heads the list of officially declared starters for the P600,000 Division 1. Also entered are Gold Edition, Materiales Fuertes, Project Genesis, Staunch Ally and Super Sharp.

Meanwhile, a mixed bunch of 12 gallopers are set to contest the P300,000 Division II event. Among candidates are Bull Rider, District Three, Golden Eagle, (Gutmoore, Hyperbid, My Preperido, Noble, Regent, Palace Hero, Sparkling Sky, Power Drive, Sis Boom Bah and Speed Goddess.

Diving show

THE HONDA Bay in Palawan will be the featured divesite on this week's episode of Unlimited Diving aired every Monday 10-10:30 p.m. over Zoe TV. The show is produced by Mukha TV Sports and hosted by Malou Maglutac Chongbian. Sponsors are Verde Island Resort and Scuba World.

9th Xavier alumni golf tourney set June 22

ALUMNI of Xavier School will meet at Tagaytay Midlands Golf and Country Club for the 9th Xavier Alumni Golf Cup on June 22.

This year's tournament is sponsored by the Class of '76 in cooperation with the Alumni Association of Xavier School.

A 1.6 Gsi Ford Lynx courtesy of Ford Balintawak, a Kohler whirlpool and a Star Cruise for two on Superstar Aries are lined up as a holes-in-one prizes.

For registration, please call Imee/Sally at the Xavier alumni office through tel. 726-4855 and 727-3329.

WOODS WAY OFF

Goosen, Cink ahead

GOOSEN

TULSA, Oklahoma—Retief Goosen has everything going his way in this US Open—a share of the lead going into the final round on a course with a history of wire-to-wire winners. And Tiger Woods nowhere in sight:

Goosen saved par on six of his last eight holes Saturday at Southern Hills, while Stewart Cink recovered from a disastrous start with the kind of birdie binge expected from Woods.

The result was two leaders who don't have nearly the charisma or the credentials of Woods. They have just the only thing that mattered: a chance to win the US Open.

Goosen's final scramble was an approach around the trees from the right rough for a two-putt par on the 18th, giving him a 69. Cink, the only player to break par at Southern Hills all three rounds, had a 67 and tied him for the lead.

They were at 205, with plenty of proven players right behind, none named Woods.

The defending US Open champion hit too many bumps and missed too many putts to make any kind of a charge. Woods had a 69—his first round under par this week—and was nine strokes behind.

All he needs now is the greatest comeback in US Open history to claim an unprecedented fifth straight major, a task that seems out of reach considering there are 22 other players in front of him. *AP*

3rd round scores:

Retief Goosen	66-70-69=205
Stewart Cink	69-69-67=205
Rocco Mediate	71-68-67=206
Mark Brooks	66-70-69=206
Sergio Garcia	70-68-68=206
Phil Mickelson	70-69-68=207
David Duval	70-69_71=210
Paul Azinger	74-67-69=210
Jim Furyk	70-70-71=211
Mike Weir	67-76-68=211
Mike Allen	77-68-67=212
Duffy Waldorf	75-68-69=212
Chris DiMarco	69-73-70=212
Kirk Triplett	72-69-71=212
Davis Love III	72-69-71=212
Angel Cabrera	70-71-72=213
Matt Gogel	70-69-74=213
Tom Lehman	76-68-69=213
Bob May	72-72-69=213
Corey Pavin	70-75-68=213
Briny Baird	71-72-70=213
J.L. Lewis	68-68_77=213
Padraig Harrington	73-70-71=214
Brandel Chamblee	72-71-74=214
Loren Roberts	69-76-69=214
Bryce Molder	75-71-68=214
Tiger Woods	74-71-69=214

Delasin lands 6th in France, bags P3M

DOROTHY Joy Delasin never got to match the steady pace of Australian Rachel Teske but flew back to the United States richer by $61,673 (about P3.1 million) after a fighting sixth place finish in the Evian Masters in France.

Delasin wound up with four successive sub-par rounds when she closed out with a one-under-par 71 for a 280 aggregate and a share of the No. 6 spot in the second richest tournament in women's golf which offered $2.1 million in prize money.

Teske bagged the champion's purse of $315,000 with her 68, turning back Sweden's Maria Hjorth by a stroke. Teske totaled 273 against the 274 of Hjorth who had either held or shared the lead in the second and third rounds.

American Beth Daniel, also among the third round leaders, matched par 72 for solo third at 277 with Marin Monnet at 278 and Meg Mallon at 279. *Jong Arcano*

WINNING FORM
Joyce Basco of Ateneo shows her winning form as she sways through the dance routines in the aerobics marathon en route to copping the amateur crown of the seven-hour competition which served as part of the popular Rexona Ultimate Challenge Series staged during the recent Independence Day celebrations at the Luneta and Manila Hotel.

Pasay derby

TWELVE more cockers and breeders have registered yesterday for the Pasay City Cockpit 14th Anniversary 5-Cock Derby, bringing to 46 the total number of participants so far in the event.

Hosted by the PCC management, the event is slated on July 19 and 21 and offers at least P1 million to the winners. Entry fee is P15,000. The champion handler and gaffer gets P100,000 and P50,000 respectively.

Among the early birds are Palawan sportsman Mauro Prieto, lawyer Rudy Salud and Luke Gaston of Long Island.

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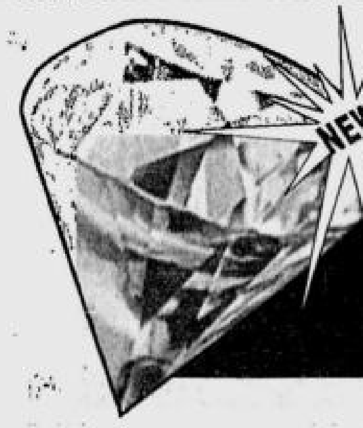

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2 keg marks ripped

THE PHILIPPINE men's and ladies' teams cracked two records and a little-known bowler came within a pin of scoring a perfect game Saturday in the Boysen-PBC Open 2001 championships at the Green Valley lanes in Quezon City.

National bowlers Biboy Rivera, Carlo Mansilungan and Botchock Rey combined for 1352 pinfalls, while the ladies' squad of Liza del Rosario, Liza Clutario and Cecilia Yap posted 1325 to rip the class O team marks.

Rey sizzled with 486 on games of 279 and 201, Rivera added 450 and Mansilungan chipped in 416 as the RP keglers finished 71 pins ahead of another RP team composed of Arnold Lecaros, Benny Dytoc and Mansilungan himself and wiped out the 1269 set by TBAM-Prima's Eric Arkoncel, Gino Mansilungan and Richie Poblete.

Clutario and del Rosario tallied 461 and 450, respectively, and Yap added 415 as the RP belles submitted 1326 to surpass the 1217 of another RP team made up of Arianne Cerdeña, Jojo Canare and Clutario herself.

Ramon Ong rolled 11 consecutive strikes, but left the 7-pin standing on his 12th try to finish with 299, highest so far in the tourney sponsored by Boysen Paints and Philippine Sports Commission and supported by Goldilocks, Filkor, Prima Pasta, Bowlimart and Storm products.

Ong and his partner, Sammy Sy, came up with 911 to lift Vikings to top spot in class B doubles. Ong shot 482 (183-299) and Sy carded 429 (174-256) to pull away from BALP's Nelson Cruz and Cocho Cajucom (779).

PBAP's Lucy Cheng produced the day's other record, a 751 in class B singles. She erased the 741 standard set by SJBA's Anne Samano.

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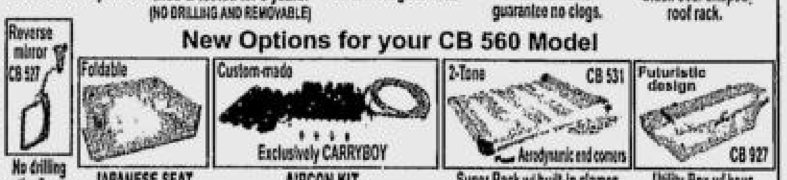

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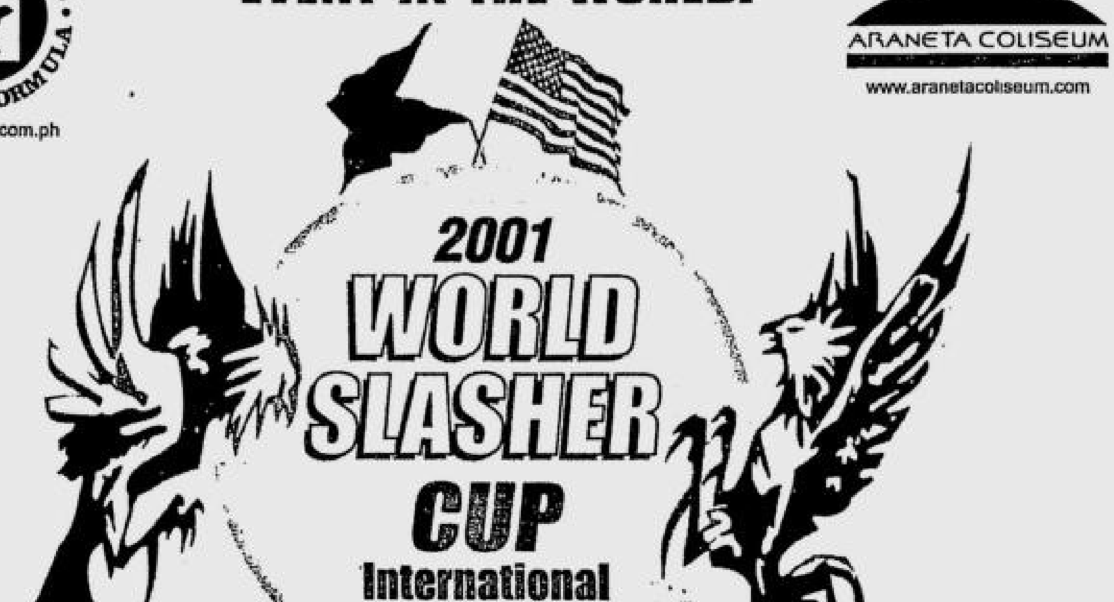

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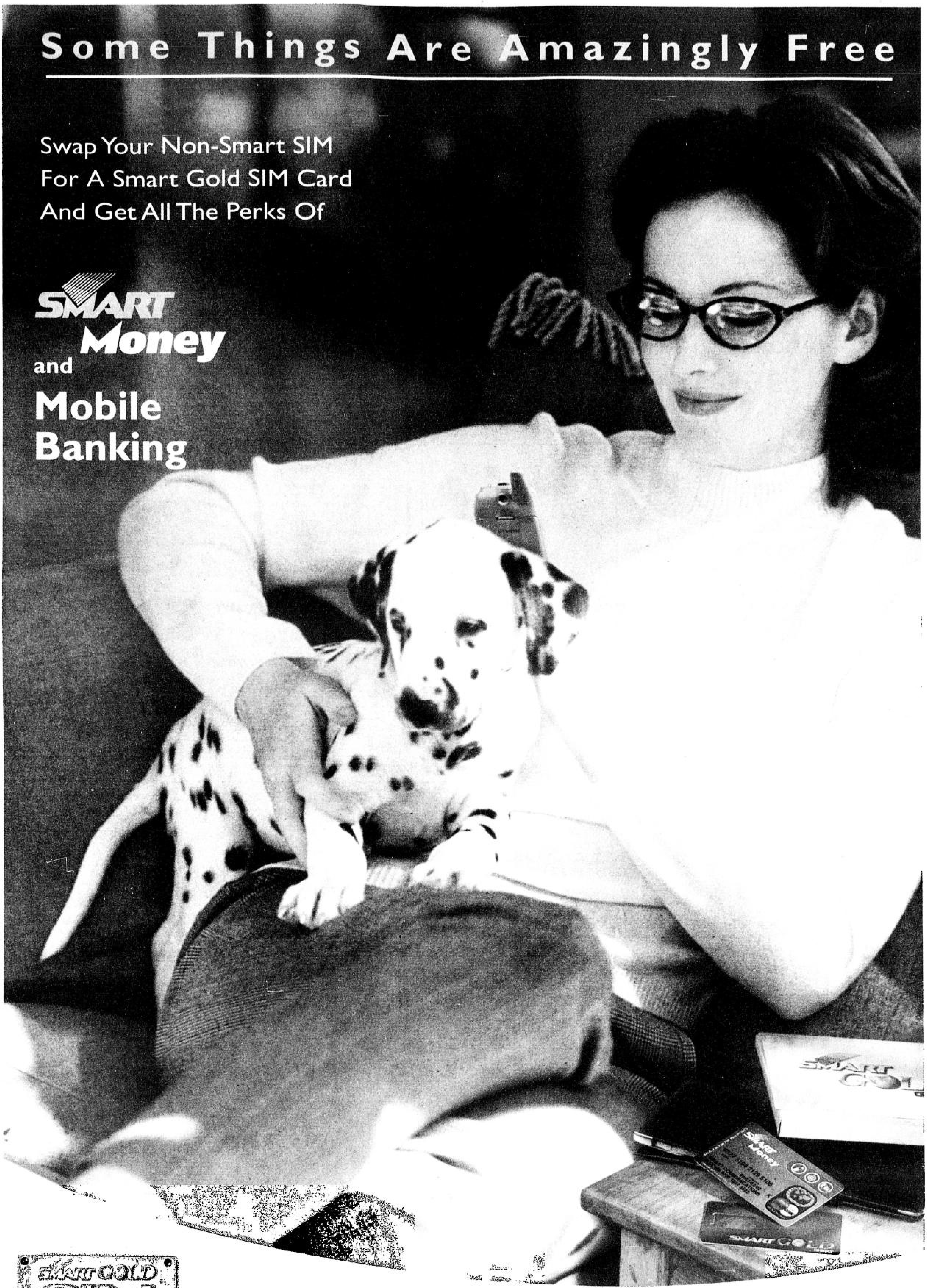

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Lito Lapid 'nephew' nabbed in drug sale A27

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

New witness points to woman, 3 gays in murder of Japanese

BY JEROME ANING

MANILA police have found a new witness against the suspects in the killing of a Japanese tourist two months ago.

SPO2 Athos de Quiros of the Western Police District homicide section said there is now a "clear indication" that the four suspects they earlier apprehended were behind the killing of Keiichi Wada—a woman who is a self-confessed "pick-up girl" and three homosexual men.

The new witness, a male cigarette vendor and parking lot attendant, surfaced on Friday and claimed he saw the woman, Venus Regasi, 21, and Ruben de Guzman, 27, talking with Wada and two still unidentified men near the seawall along Roxas Boulevard in front of the Diamond Hotel in Ermita in the early morning of June 1.

SPO2 De Quiros said he would file with the city prosecutor's office on Friday night charges of robbery with murder against Regasi.

The cigarette vendor said he was standing at the corner of Pedro Gil Street and Roxas Boulevard watching over the parked vehicles when Regasi and De Guzman passed by. He said he saw them join Wada and two other men who were just across the street.

He said all five boarded a motorized banca that sped away in Manila Bay.

He said he was surprised when he saw the body of the Japanese being fished out of Manila Bay later that day.

De Quiroz said that based on the witness' description, he was able to identify one of the two unidentified men with Wada as Joselito Soquilla. The other was known only as Bibit, he said.

Soquilla was a neighbor of Regasi and De Guzman on Maginhawa Street in Pasay City, he said.

Friday morning, Manila policemen went to Valenzuela City after learning that Soquilla had been arrested for highway robbery. But they later found out that Soquilla was already out on bail.

De Guzman's fellow gays, Ariel Santos and Luisito Vergara, are still detained. All three were arrested after a deaf-mute woman claimed he saw De Guzman and another gay ganging up on Wada early in the morning.

Police said either Vergara or Santos could have been one of De Guzman's companions but police decided to detain both and in fact filed charges of murder with robbery against all three.

The testimony of the deaf-mute witness suffered a crack when she claimed she saw one of the gay men strangling Wada and another stabbing him in the neck. Autopsy showed no strangulation mark and inspection of the site showed no bloodstain on the seawall, police said.

Police released Santiago Estreller, 43, the pedicab driver arrested with Regasi, after they could not link him to the killing of the Japanese.

WHAT THE RAINS BRING ERIK ARAZAS

For many people, the rains mean traffic, laundry that won't dry, being trapped in the office for hours, and other aggravations. For these frolicking boys in flooded Tondo, Manila, the rains mean an instant playground. And for scavengers, the rains bring flotsam to the Manila Bay breakwater that just might yield things they could salvage and recycle.

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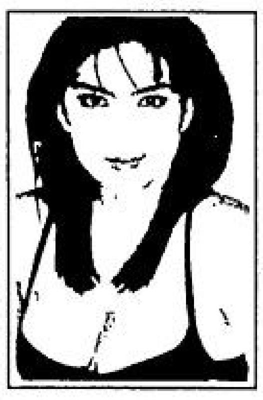

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Drunken men beat up rookie cop

BY AGNES E. DONATO

A ROOKIE policeman and a traffic aide were beaten during a riot that broke out in the birthday party of a barangay councilman in Pasig City Saturday night.

PO1 Jason Magistrado, assigned to Police Community Precinct 5 and a resident of Barangay Caniogan, and traffic aide Rey Redome sustained head injuries and contusions in the body. They were treated at the Rizal Medical Center.

DRUNKEN/A26

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HONDA

SJ vendors: We'll fight demolition with our lives

By Agnes E. Donato

ABOUT 1,000 vendors in San Juan yesterday vowed to risk their lives to prevent the planned demolition of the temporary Agora public market.

The vendors have been operating on an empty lot behind the San Juan High School after a fire burned down the original Agora market in December 1998. The Department of Education, Culture and Sports reportedly owns the lot.

Hilario Padilla, secretary of the Samahan ng Manininda ng Pamilihang Agora, said he and his fellow vendors would form a human barricade to keep demolition teams at bay if the municipal government failed to present any written order from the courts allowing their eviction.

Padilla said his group would remain vigilant, insisting that he and his colleagues were operating in the market legally.

"We all have valid business permits here," he said. "We pay for the electricity and rent."

Padilla said the vendors have no other place to go if they would be evicted from the temporary site.

The Agora mall is still under construction.

Padilla said the vendors also foresee many problems with the new mall, including safety and design issues, among others.

The demolition order reportedly came from the office of market master Rey Eito. It reportedly said the vendors had only until 5 p.m. on Friday to pack up and leave or a demolition team would come to dismantle their stalls.

On Friday, word spread that the municipal government would send demolition teams to evict the vendors from the temporary site.

But except for about 15 members of the police Special Weapons and Tactics team who came to the market about 6 p.m., there were no signs that the demolition would happen.

Padilla said municipal lawyer Romualdo de los Santos confirmed the demolition. He also said De los Santos refused to give any details on who issued the demolition order.

But Padilla expressed willingness to negotiate with local officials so the vendors would be given ample time to find another site if the demolition was indeed legal.

Acting San Juan Mayor Philip Cesar reportedly denied any knowledge of the eviction. He was reportedly in Cebu for a Metropolitan Basketball Association game of the San Juan Knights.

Drunken men beat up rookie cop

(From page A25)

Investigator SPO1 Oscar Gallero said the beating took place at the residence of barangay councilman Al Santos on A. Luna Street in Barangay Bambang about midnight Saturday. Santos was celebrating his birthday, he added.

Gallero said Santos invited Magistrado and Redome to his party, along with several other people. During the drinking session, an intoxicated Redome spilled alcohol on one of the other guests, a certain Bobby Guinto, who complained to barangay councilman Noel Picadizo.

Picadizo approached Redome's group, which included Magistrado. Not knowing that the latter was a policeman, Picadizo confronted Magistrado about the .9mm pistol tucked in his waist.

The policeman refused to give up his firearm and a commotion followed, with Magistrado and Picadizo grappling for possession of the gun.

The gun reportedly went off, prompting Picadizo's companions to rush toward their friend, the investigator said.

Magistrado was set to file charges of physical injury charges against Picadizo, who is said to be planning to file counter-charges against the policeman.

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BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

ONE SHORT trip from Makati to Quezon City readily makes her feel sore and swollen. Very, very sorry, to be exact. And, oh, the pollution, she always ends up with Manila soot mired in her nostrils.

So the petite lady of the house avoids going home to her country of birth. She says everything and everybody in the Philippines feels and looks rotten.

It's actually her way of saying that I made a big mistake when I refused to stay behind, unlike everyone else, after my first trip to California in the '70s.

I bungled a chance of a lifetime, she croons.

To emphasize triumph, she gives the visitor a living room tour of her antique collection, acquired through weekend forays in various garage sales in places as far as Honolulu and Las Vegas.

My host, a longtime resident of Anaheim, never fails to announce that Disneyland, in case there's no one around to drive you, is accessible by foot. She indeed lives at the doorstep of the Magic Kingdom.

* * *

She proceeds to display her collection of antique pieces, a mongrel mix of Chinese tables, chairs, figurines, topped by her prize find, a richly gilded 17th century pirate treasure chest that looks genuinely bogus.

It's her main distraction nowadays, haggling hard for what she thinks are genuine knickknacks from the past.

Of course, she also tags along with her husband, a former LA County employee who's similarly retired like her, in regular fishing trips to either Newport or Redondo.

Now rushing out of the backdoor, she invites me to view her green, spacious backyard garden. She then pries open a big refrigerator, their third in the house, and, voila! bunches of mackerel, tuna, smelt in plastic packets, assorted varieties forming the week's catch, came falling off.

Look what a splendid lifetime you've squandered, she tries to sneeze.

All the other townmates stayed put once they had made it to America and, unlike poor, dumb me, continue to reap the rewards of their bold decision. They did start as TNTs (*tago nang tago*) but eventually qualified for citizenship or immigrant status.

* * *

My eloquent host stands there scrutinizing me, a misplaced insect that has again strayed for an unscheduled visit. Maybe she wants to ask why I have not developed the steak paunch, a rich-man's belly, which has become the status symbol of her successful Filipino neighbors.

Maybe she also expected me to weep and announce my defeat. That I have been wrong, all wrong, and that I should have stayed and settled in the United States after I had set foot on the land of milk and honey.

But I gallantly held my ground. Milk? The Philippines will never succeed in developing its own dairy industry in this lifetime. As for honey, the local type we see being peddled around will remain mostly bogus, based on colored, scented sugar.

It's basically rice, salt and fish for the poor *masa*, at least for those who can still eat three meals a day.

But here I am, typing this down on board a commendable Philippine Airlines flight (PR 103) after an annual leave that gave me the chance to visit my brothers, kiss and hug my sick mother.

* * *

It's back to the rot and soot, back to swim in crime, chaos and corruption.

Everything is so disheartening back home. But not to worry, announces my younger brother. All is not lost. He's still considering an option to buy a house and retire in Batangas, maybe some eight years from now.

Nice to hear that. But on the way to the LA airport, along Bake entering Irvine on this trip home, the traffic situationer suddenly gets snagged with a flash report from the Philippines. An American hostage from nearby Corona, who was supposed to be partying with his brothers in another US city, had allegedly been beheaded by rebels in Basilan.

Now, says my brother, it would be truly impossible to again sell the Philippines, even to *balikbayans*.

Yes, as my petite host in that house full of bogus antiques has announced, they have all the good things in America, compared to us poor Pinoys who continue to die and rot back home.

She can also claim we've all grown into a breed of masochists.

There will be no milk and honey, no fragrance of cool, nippy California mornings from my brother Jim's exquisite backyard garden.

But I have again taken this trip back to hometown Mandaluyong.

Why? 'Coz, corny as it may sound, there's no home like ours.

That's what our dead heroes had taught us.

Atienza wants police control

By Jerome Aning

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza on Saturday renewed his appeal for the transfer of the control and supervision of the police forces to local government authorities.

In a press statement, Atienza described as "untenable" the relationship of police and local executives.

"The local police force is accountable to their superiors and not to the (mayors and governors)," Atienza said. "However, (our) constituents hold (us) accountable if the local police force does not perform its duties well.

"Since it's us who are denounced if the police are not doing their job, then why not place them directly under us?"

He said it is "highly unlikely" that the practice of some abusive local officials of using the police forces as their private armies would recur "because of more stringent safeguards as well as the presence of vigilant media."

"We would be accountable if the police forces are placed under our control," he said. "This is the age of electronic media. You wouldn't dare commit abuses because you'd probably find yourself in the news or at the receiving end of cases filed before the Office of the Ombudsman."

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Mark Jimen
OK AKO KAY DISIERTO!

MILITANTS, including this one wearing a Mark Jimenez mask, insisted on extradition for the congressman-elect during a news conference in Quezon City on Saturday. EDWIN BACASMAS

Jimenez takes oath as Manila solon while fighting extradition

BUSINESSMAN Mark Jimenez on Friday took his oath as congressman of Manila's sixth district before Supreme Court Justice Santiago Kapunan, even as he continues to fight off extradition to the United States where he is facing a string of criminal charges.

Jimenez, 54, took his oath in Kapunan's office on the sixth floor of the Supreme Court building, with a handful of supporters as witnesses.

The sixth district includes Sta. Mesa, Sta. Ana and San Miguel.

Jimenez took his oath in the midst of a courtroom battle. He is trying to fight off a petition for extradition that the government has filed before a Manila regional trial court.

For the second straight day, Jimenez appeared in the sala of Manila RTC Judge Guillermo Puruganan to oppose the government's move to have a warrant of arrest issued against him.

Jimenez asked the court to allow him to post a bail bond of P100,000 so he could serve his constituents even as he fights the extradition petition.

Jimenez, whose real name is Mario Crespo, is charged before a Florida court with two counts of conspiracy to defraud the US government, four counts of tax evasion, two counts of wire fraud, six counts of false statement, and 33 counts of illegal contributions to the US Democratic Party campaign fund for former President Bill Clinton.

His lawyers in the US are challenging the arrest warrants issued by South Florida district court Judge Robert Dube, claiming the cases are only political harassment.

Kapunan was among the judges who voted to order the government to provide Jimenez with the criminal information before extradition proceedings could be filed against him, but the Supreme Court ruled otherwise.

The Ombudsman said the government may ask for a deferment of the extradition process if Jimenez offers fresh evidence that would pin deposed President Estrada on the P346 million he allegedly received from Jimenez.

The Ombudsman on Thursday directed Jimenez to submit a supplemental affidavit on the checks for P346 million.

Jimenez stated in his affidavit that he "personally delivered each check" to Estrada on separate occasions from December 1998 to August 2000, all of which were drawn from his Bank of Commerce account.

The Ombudsman has not filed any complaint regarding the P346 million Jimenez allegedly gave to Estrada.

In opposing the government's appeal for a warrant for his arrest, Jimenez contended he is enrolled under the government's Witness Protection Program as a state witness in the plunder case against Estrada.

But the government maintains that Jimenez can simply execute a deposition on the charges against Estrada and can thus be extradited to satisfy the country's treaty obligations to the United States.

The government holds that Jimenez must be detained to ensure he would not be able to flee and escape extradition.

Woman vendor kills rival over meat buyers

By Christian V. Esguerra

A WOMAN who sold meat was stabbed dead yesterday morning by another woman vendor during a row over their customers in Valenzuela City.

Police said Sonia Ramos, 33, of A. Tongos Street in Barangay Malinta, Valenzuela, was killed by Wilda Velorias, of Pag-asa Subdivision, Maysan, Valenzuela.

The suspect even went to the victim's husband to confess her crime, police said.

Ramos was on her way to the SM market on Tangke Street in Malinta when Velorias confronted her about 3:30 a.m., investigation showed.

There had been bad blood between Ramos and Velorias reportedly due to competition in the meat business, police said.

Their argument developed into a fistfight, until Velorias took a kitchen knife and repeatedly stabbed Ramos all over the body, police said.

Witnesses brought Ramos to the Valenzuela District Hospital where she died.

After the stabbing, Velorias went to Ramos' house and told the victim's husband Renato that she had killed his wife.

Velorias was arrested in her house about 7 a.m. She is detained at the Valenzuela city jail.

Police said they would file homicide charges against her.

1 dead as van rams jeep

AN OLD woman was killed early yesterday morning when a delivery van rammed into a passenger jeepney in Manila.

Members of the Western Police District Traffic Enforcement Group identified the victim as Rosalia Digos, 50, a resident of Morato Street in San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City.

Digos suffered internal injuries and died at the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center, said investigator SPO1 Rodrigo Trivio.

Digos was on board a passenger jeepney driven by her husband Virgilio when a van beat the red light and hit the left side of the jeepney, investigation showed.

Digos was sitting behind her husband. The collision caused her to smash her chest against a metal part of the jeepney, police said.

The husband and some passengers also suffered minor injuries, Trivio said.

The driver of the van fled after the accident.

The killer van (WNR-892) had "Racquel Meat Dealer" written on it.

Authorities were still trying to locate the owner and the driver of the van. They said the driver would be charged with reckless imprudence resulting in homicide.

Christian V. Esguerra

Lito Lapid 'nephew' nabbed in drug sale

By Christian V. Esguerra

A YOUNG man, who claimed to be a nephew of Pampanga Gov. Lito Lapid, and a male companion were arrested Saturday night during a drug buy-bust operation in Caloocan City.

Police said Andrew Lapid, 25, of Balibago, Angeles City, Pampanga, and Reggie Layug, 30, of A. Bonifacio, Tarlac, Tarlac, were caught in the act of selling methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu to a Caloocan police officer who posed as a buyer.

Lapid identified himself as a "distant nephew" of Governor Lapid.

After placing Lapid and Layug on surveillance, members of the Caloocan Drug Enforcement Group set up a buy-bust operation on the service road in East Bagong Barrio about 6 p.m.

The team was composed of Police Officers 3 Rizalino Rangel, Edgardo Reyes, Rolando Morales and Rommel Ybanez, PO2 Armando Garcia, and Police Officers 1 Rollie Balena, Ralph Ramos and Gilbert Abarro.

The suspects arrived on board a gray Mitsubishi Galant (UNA-397), said investigator SPO4 Ernesto Palting.

Ramos, who posed as a buyer, identified himself as a police officer when Lapid was about to hand him a plastic sachet of shabu, the investigator said.

The suspects rushed to their car and drove off, police said.

A support group led by Rangel used a Toyota Tamaraw FX to chase the suspects in their Galant.

When Lapid and Layug were cornered on Quirino Highway, they rammed their car into the police vehicle, authorities said.

Police fired warning shots, but the suspects ignored them.

After a long car chase, Lapid and his companion were finally arrested at the North Luzon Expressway in Marilao, Bulacan.

Recovered from them were four sachets believed to be containing shabu. The sachets were brought to the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory.

SUSPECTS Andrew Lapid (left) and Reggie Layug detained in Caloocan. EDWIN BACASMAS

The suspects also yielded two marked P500 bills, which police used in the buy-bust operation.

In an interview in their detention cell, Lapid denied he was a drug pusher. He said he was with Layug only because he wanted to visit Manila.

Lapid and Layug are facing drug charges before the Caloocan City prosecutor's office.

2 killed, 2 injured in Makati violence

By Nelson F. Flores

TWO MEN were killed and two others were seriously injured in separate incidents over the weekend in Makati City.

Police said one of the slain victims, Jack Gloria, 18, a construction worker and resident of Barangay Tanyag in Taguig, Metro Manila, was pronounced dead on arrival at the Makati Medical Center from stab wounds in the chest and armpit.

Gloria's cousin Luisito told police they were waiting for a ride on the northbound lane of Edsa near the Guadalupe overpass shortly before midnight Saturday when his cousin gave a woman a dirty look.

He said the woman returned a few moments later with several men who beat up and stabbed his cousin.

Luisito said he was caught by surprise and was not able to do anything to help his cousin.

At around 8 p.m. on Saturday, an unidentified man was shot dead, also in Makati.

The man was pronounced dead on arrival at the Ospital ng Makati from several gunshot wounds in the body.

Police described the man to be in his early 20s, with a slim build, and wearing denim shorts and a black shirt.

Witnesses told police the man was shot on San Jose Street in Barangay Guadalupe Viejo after he stabbed in the head commuter Melvyn Velasco for blocking his path.

The man was apparently a robber fleeing a mob, police said.

The man's pursuers brought Velasco to the Makati Medical Center, where doctors said he was in stable condition.

In Barangay West Rembo, former soldier Leocadio Flores, 42, a resident of Dili Avenue, Makati City, was shot while trying to break up a fight between his uncle, identified only as *Mang* Manoy, and a known neighborhood toughie, Joel de la Torre, shortly before midnight Saturday.

Flores suffered a gunshot wound in the chest from a .38 revolver, police said.

Makati City police investigator PO2 Alejandro David said

De la Torre got mad when Flores intervened in the fight. He said De la Torre pulled out a gun and shot Flores at close range while at the same time cursing him.

Flores fled after the shooting, police said.

Police are now looking for De la Torre who is believed to be in hiding somewhere near the crime scene.

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Loren backs Pasig plan

SEN. Loren Legarda has endorsed the putting up of linear parks along the banks of the Pasig River, saying they would spur tourism and protect the vital waterway from further environmental degradation.

Legarda, chair of the Senate tourism committee, was referring to the P160.8-million plan to develop at least 10 priority linear parks that are meant to revive the Pasig River and promote tourism.

"If there are no funds readily available, then we will push for the inclusion of (project) funding in the proposed 2002 national budget," she said.

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission will implement the project, which will cover a total of 41,576 square meters. Implementation will take two years.

The project cost will cover landscaping, civil, drainage and electrical works, the construction of pathways and public toilets, the installation of lampposts and the putting up of park benches.

Cory, other world leaders to build Habitat houses

FORMER President Corazon Aquino has accepted an invitation to build homes for the needy in South Korea side by side with former US President Jimmy Carter and South Korean President and Nobel Peace laureat Kim Dae-jung.

Aquino was among more than 50 current and former heads of state personally visited by Carter to participate in World Leaders Build, a worldwide event of Habitat for Humanity International.

World leaders in five continents will participate in the project that celebrates Habitat's 25th anniversary, from Aug. 6 to 11.

Habitat for Humanity International, a non-profit organization, was founded by Millard and Linda Fuller to end homelessness by building simple, decent and affordable housing for needy families. Volunteers and partner families work together to build Habitat homes, which are then sold to the selected families at no-profit, no-interest terms.

World Leaders Build hopes to involve the world's government, corporate and civic leaders in building Habitat houses in their respective countries and raising public awareness.

Among the countries participating in World Leaders Build are Canada, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and India.

"Owning a decent home is often the first step in regaining one's basic dignity and overcoming the cycle of poverty," said Fernando Zobel de Ayala, chair of Ayala Land Inc. and a Habitat trustee. Zobel chairs the Philippine National Steering Committee of World Leaders Build. "I am personally convinced that Habitat provides an effective and participative way to bridge the social gap."

In the Philippines, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will lead the activities for World Leaders Build on Aug. 6. She has appealed to all sectors to take part in such projects, especially in the light of the recent national events such as the May 1 rebellion.

President Macapagal and members of her Cabinet have agreed to help build homes for the needy in Rizal.

Some leaders of government, business, media and civic groups have already responded to President Macapagal's call by being part of the World Leaders Build National Steering Committee.

These include Housing Secretary Michael Defensor, Philippine Daily Inquirer Chair Marixi Prieto, St. Luke's Medical Center chair of the board of trustees Robert Kuan, Couples for Christ national director Frank Padilla.

Other members of the committee are Jose Abueva, Rina Lopez-Bautista, Paolo A. Aquino, Margie Moran-Floirendo, Pedro Roxas, Antonio Ng, Jose Maria Mendoza, Erlinda de Guzman, Roberto Aboitiz and Mahid Mutilan.

Habitat for Humanity Philippines aims to build 300 houses in 30 sites across the country during the week-long project.

EX-LEADERS both, Cory Aquino and former US President Jimmy Carter (in 1999 file photo) will join others in building homes for the needy.

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- Bawat tatlong buwan (hanggang February 2002), mamimigay kami ng WESTERN UNION® DREAM HOME!
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TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF WESTERN UNION DREAM HOME PRIZE DRAW

1. Ang Raffle Promo ay magsisimula sa May 30, 2001 hanggang March 18, 2002. Mga international money transfer na ipinadala at natanggap lamang ng sinumang Filipino citizens of legal age mula sa mga kasaling Western Union agent locations sa Metro Manila ang puwedeng isali sa prize draw.
2. Sa unang pagtanggap ng iyong pamilya o kaibigan ng international money transfer na galing sa iyo sa kahit saan mang participating Western Union agent location sa Metro Manila ay mabibigyan sila ng Western Union Pass Book at malalagyan ng isang sticker ang kanilang Passbook.
3. Sa bawat pagtanggap nila ng international money transfer ay malalagyan ng isang sticker ang kanilang Passbook.
4. Kapag may tatlong stickers na ang kanilang Passbook at na-validate na ito ng participating WU agent sa Metro Manila ay papapuntahin sila sa fulfillment centers para ibigay ang kanilang Pass Book.
5. Sa fulfillment center ay pupunitin ang kalahating pahina ng passbook na may tatlong stickers at ang booklet na may raffle coupon ay isosoli sa customers kasama ng free gift na kanilang pipiliin (caps, K-wallets, T-shirts o phonebook).
6. Puwede na silang sumali sa Western Union DREAM HOME PRIZE DRAW. Mga kumpletong certificate lamang ng iyong qualified receiver (tatlong validated stickers kasama ang kanilang pangalan, address, telephone number, at signature), ang puwedeng isali sa prize draw.
7. Di maaaring ilipat ang mga stickers na natanggap ng iyong receiver (halimbawa: hindi tatanggapin ng fulfillment centers ang tatlong certificates na may tig-iisang sticker lamang).
8. Makakakuha lamang ng free gift pag nakakumpleto ng tatlong stickers sa Western Union Passbook.
9. Para makasali sa prize draw, dapat maghulog ang iyong receiver ng validated certificate sa drop box sa fulfillment center isang linggo bago ang scheduled na prize draw.
10. Kapag ito ay di umabot, ang validated certificate ay isasali sa susunod na raffle draw.
11. Tatlong DREAM HOME raffle draws na gaganapin sa 11/F JMT Corporate Condominium Office, ADB Ave, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, sa mga sumusunod na araw:

    August 24, 2001 (12:00 ng tanghali)
    November 23, 2001 (12:00 ng tanghali)
    March 18, 2002 (12:00 ng tanghali)
12. Ang WESTERN UNION Dream Home Promotion winner ay kailangang Filipino citizen of legal age.
13. Ang mananalo sa bawat DREAM HOME prize draw ay siyang dapat na nakapangalang receiver sa tatlong qualifying international money transfers na isinali.
14. Ipaaalam ng Western Union sa DREAM HOME winner ang kanyang pagkapanalo sa loob ng 48 hours ng prize draw sa pamamagitan ng Registered Mail.
15. Ang mga hindi mananalong entries ay isasama sa mga susunod na draws.
16. Ipagbibigay alam sa mga nanalo ang petsa ng awarding ceremony na gaganapin sa lugar ng house and lot na premyo.
17. Ilalabas din ang mga pangalan ng mga DREAM HOME winners sa print ads sa Pilipinas.
18. Ang matatanggap na premyo ng WESTERN UNION DREAM HOME winner ay isang house and lot sa ReginaVille 2000 sa Barangay Inocencio, Trece Martires, Cavite-Floor plan SPW-D (Constructor: BANFP Realty & Development Corporation).
19. Isang house and lot lamang ang ipamimigay sa bawat draw at wala ng ibang premyong ibibigay maliban dito.
20. Ang WESTERN UNION ang magbabayad ng 20% tax sa mga premyong hihigit ng P10,000.
21. Ang WESTERN UNION Dream Home Prize Draw ay limitado lamang sa mga tatanggap (na Filipino citizens of legal age) ng international money transfer sa kahit saan mang kasaling Western Union agent location sa Metro Manila mula May 30, 2001 hanggang March 11, 2002.
22. Mga premyo na hindi kinuha ng nanalo sa WESTERN UNION Dream Home Prize Draw ay ibabalik sa Western Union na may pahintulot at approval ng DTI.

Per DTI permit no. 0669, series of 2001

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Ex-cop picks wrong prey: another cop

A FORMER policeman was arrested Friday morning for allegedly extorting money from a police officer he had accosted for urinating in Caloocan City.

SPO4 Jesus Obtial, a former member of Caloocan's Traffic Enforcement Group and the Metro Manila Development Authority and a resident of Tiaong Street in Guiguinto, Bulacan, was arrested after he allegedly took P50 from Junior Carpio, of the Caloocan police.

Carpio was urinating against a wall in Monumento when Obtial approached him and accused him of violating a city ordinance, according to Supt. Benjardi Mantele, the Caloocan chief of police.

Obtial introduced himself as a policeman and demanded P50 from Carpio.

Carpio gave him the money, but he later asked other policemen to check if Obtial was really a policeman.

Members of the Bonifacio Monument Circle police detachment led by Insp. Jonathan de Gracia arrested Obtial.

Further investigation showed that Obtial had been passing himself off as a policeman and had been extorting money from drivers and pedestrians in the Monumento Circle.

He was charged with extortion and usurpation of authority.

Christian V. Esguerra

Indian businessman hacked to death by Malabon robber

AN INDIAN businessman was hacked to death yesterday morning when he tried to fight off a robber in Malabon City.

Amarjit "Sammy" Singh, 39, a resident of P. Sevilla Street, Grace Park, Caloocan City, was killed by one David Donceras of Hasa-Hasa Street, Barangay Longos, Malabon, said investigators PO2 Peter Rios and PO2 Redentor Mantala.

The suspect is said to be a notorious robber in the area.

Singh suffered severe hack wounds in the chest, left arm, and left eyebrow, police said. He also had a deep cut in the right palm because he held on to the suspect's samurai sword to stave off the attack.

Singh was collecting payments from residents of Hasa-Hasa Street when Donceras, carrying a sword, approached him and forcibly took his money, investigators said.

Donceras stabbed and hacked Singh when he resisted, witnesses told police.

Donceras fled after the assault.

A certain Gilbert de Jose, 26, rushed the businessman to the Pagamutang Bayan ng Malabon, but Singh died on the way.

Police later recovered a still undetermined amount of cash and a list of people who owed Singh money.

Police are set to file charges of robbery with homicide against Donceras.

Authorities are investigating if the suspect is a member of the dreaded "Bumbay" gang that has been victimizing Indian businessmen in northern Manila.

Christian V. Esguerra

Forum on waste management

CLOSE to 2,000 people—members of the National Solid Waste Management Commission, Metro Manila mayors, selected barangay captains, solid waste management-related NGOs, and members of the media—are expected to attend the consultative forum on waste management, "Sa Sama-samang Pagkilos, Basura ay Maiaayos," to be held on June 22 at the ballroom of the Hotel Rembrandt on Timog Avenue, Quezon City.

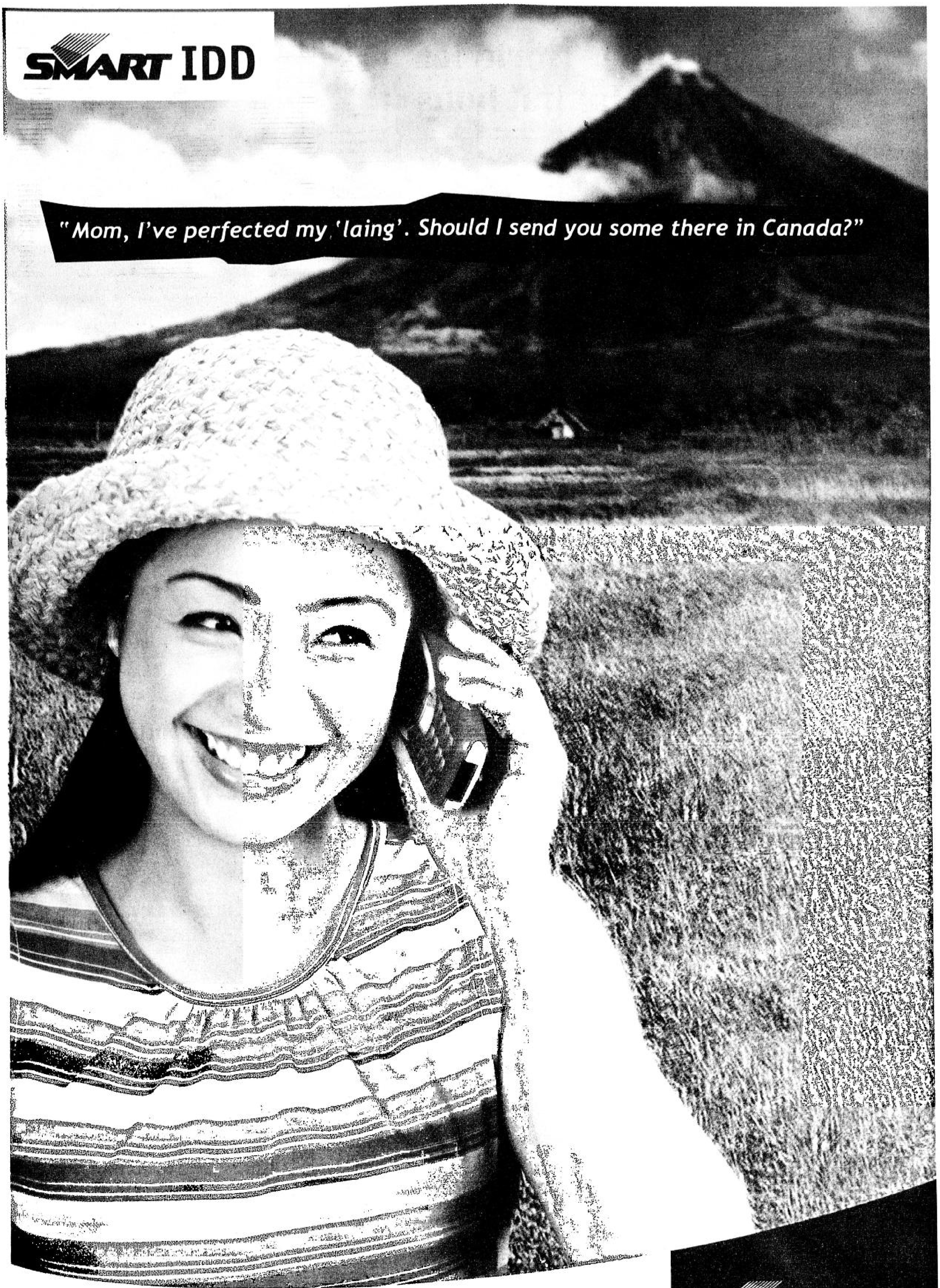
Expected to lead the forum are top government officials such as Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos, and Senator Loren Legarda who is vice chair of the Senate committee on environment and natural resources.

Terence Jones, resident representative of the United Nations development Programme (UNDP), will give a special message.

The one-day consultative forum will be a venue for the sharing of the community-based waste management features of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 or Republic Act No. 9003, and discussion of common problem areas of selected waste management initiatives, and needs that RA No. 9003 implementing rules and regulations must consider.

Among the paper presenters in the forum are Dr. Hisashi Ogawa, regional adviser in environmental management of the Western Pacific regional office of the World Health Organization; engineer Peter Anthony Abaya, director for the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the DENR; Mayor Emmanuel Carlos of Valenzuela City; Barangay Captain Alejandro Santiago of Ugong, Pasig City; and Ms Leonarda Camacho, chair of the Linis-Ganda Multi-purpose Cooperative.

The forum is organized by the EMB of the DENR, with the assistance of the UNDP. It is also in support of the celebration of June as Philippine Environment Month.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9	DOLBY SURROUND	THE REPLICANT
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11	DOLBY SURROUND	HEAD OVER HEELS
12	DOLBY SURROUND	SPOT

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5	DOLBY DIGITAL	GET OVER IT
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7	DOLBY SURROUND	SPOT
8	DOLBY SURROUND	ANGEL EYES
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
10	DOLBY SURROUND	MAGENTA
11	DOLBY SURROUND	VALENTINE
12	DOLBY SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR		8820950
1	ULTRA SURROUND	THE REPLICANT
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5	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HEAD OVER HEELS
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE REPLICANT
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
10	DOLBY SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SPOT

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5	DOLBY SURROUND	HEAD OVER HEELS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	THE REPLICANT
7	DTS	THE MUMMY RETURNS
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	PEARL HARBOR
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MAGENTA
10	DOLBY SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TRAFFIC
12	DOLBY SURROUND	ANTS IN THE PANTS

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2	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	PEARL HARBOR
4	ULTRA SURROUND	HEAD OVER HEELS
5	ULTRA SURROUND	ANTS IN THE PANTS
6	ULTRA SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
7	ULTRA SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE REPLICANT
9	ULTRA SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
10	ULTRA SURROUND	SPOT

TUTUBAN CENTER		2514302
1	ULTRA SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE REPLICANT
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MAGENTA

SM CEBU		2313878
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2	ULTRA SURROUND	VALENTINE
3	ULTRA SURROUND	HEAD OVER HEELS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	15 MINUTES
5	ULTRA SURROUND	ANTS IN THE PANTS
6	ULTRA SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
7	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS

SM ILOILO		3209422
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3	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
5	ULTRA SURROUND	TRAFFIC
6	ULTRA SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	CARTA ALAS

SM PAMPANGA		7126015
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2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MUMMY RETURNS
3	DOLBY SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
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6	HEAD OVER HEELS In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	THE MUMMY RETURNS In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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4	SPOT In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	THE REPLICANT In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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4 GOLD (DTS)	SPOT
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR
6 GOLD (SDDS)	HEAD OVER HEELS
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR
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3	THE REPLICANT

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5	SPOT
6	PEARL HARBOR
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8	THE MUMMY RETURNS

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2	ALAS DOSE

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A	PEARL HARBOR

Sunshine

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2	BUHAY KAMAO
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City

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4	GET OVER IT
5	PEARL HARBOR
6	THE REPLICANT
7 (DTS)	SPOT
8 (SDDS)	HEAD OVER HEELS
9 (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR

Caloocan

tel 362.3508	
2	BUHAY KAMAO

Grand Central

(Caloocan) tel 364.3781	
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2	BUHAY KAMAO
3	THE REPLICANT
4 (SDDS)	PEARL HARBOR
5	GET OVER IT
6 (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR
7 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
8	LABRADOR
9	MAGENTA

Commonwealth

tel 951.0083	
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2	BUHAY KAMAO
3	THE REPLICANT
4	MAGENTA
5 (SDDS)	PEARL HARBOR
6	HEAD OVER HEELS
7 (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR
8	GET OVER IT

Ortigas

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1	THE REPLICANT
2	BUHAY KAMAO
3 (DTS)	SPOT
4	GET OVER IT
5 (SDDS)	PEARL HARBOR

Universal

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1	BUHAY KAMAO

Sampaguita

(Cubao) tel 911.7888	
1	BUHAY KAMAO

Dilson

(Manila) tel 734.7724	
Dilson Lords Jennet	LABRADOR

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2	BUHAY KAMAO
3	THE REPLICANT
4	GET OVER IT

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1	
3	BUHAY KAMAO

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto

SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238	
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2	THE REPLICANT
3	MAGENTA
4	BUHAY KAMAO
5	SPOT

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CINEMA tel 244.4619	
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3	LABRADOR
4	THE REPLICANT
5	MAGENTA
6	RESERVE

Baclaran LRT

CINEMA tel 512.0115	
1 (DOLBY)	BUHAY KAMAO
2	THE REPLICANT
3	PEARL HARBOR
4	
5	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall

(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198	
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3 (DTS)	BUHAY KAMAO

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383	
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2 (DTS)	BUHAY KAMAO
3 (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR
4	ANGEL EYES

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276	
1 (SDDS)	PEARL HARBOR
2	MY WIFE LOVER
3	BUHAY KAMAO
4 (DTS)	THE REPLICANT

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202	
1 (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR
2	BUHAY KAMAO
3 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
4	ANTS IN THE PANTS
5	ANGEL EYES

Olivarez Tri-Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883	
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2	BUHAY KAMAO
3	ANGEL EYES

Olivarez Los Baños

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3	PEARL HARBOR
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Berma

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3	BUHAY KAMAO
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GALLERIA 632-9115-16
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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	PEARL HARBOR
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	GET OVER IT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	HEAD OVER HEELS
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ROBEN	THE REPLICANT
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TANDEM-2	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
TIMES	THE CROW / FAMILY MAN
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
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QUEZON-1	BUHAY KAMAO
REMAR	BUHAY KAMAO
REMAR-2	MAGENTA
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
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OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 , 633-78-51 TO 70
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CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BUHAY KAMAO
CINEMA-2	LABRADOR
CINEMA-3	TRAFFIC
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-6	THE MUMMY RETURNS
CINEMA-7	BUHAY KAMAO
CINEMA-8	ANTS IN THE PANTS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	SPOT
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-12	REPLICANT
CINEMA-14	GET OVER IT
CINEMA-15	HEAD OVER HEELS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	GET OVER IT
CINEMA-2	SPOT
CINEMA-3	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-4	HEAD OVER HEELS
CINEMA-5	THE MUMMY RETURNS
CINEMA-6	PEARL HARBOR
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	MS. CONGENIALITY
CINEMA-2	ANG GUSTO KO SA LALAKE
CINEMA-4	KATAWAN
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	MS. CONGENIALITY
CINEMA-2	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
CINEMA-4	BUHAY NA MANIKIN

Tribute . . .

(From page A31)

ity and humor hid a passionate anger against the injustices inflicted upon the weakest members of our national community.

"But it was an anger restrained by his firm conviction that no measure of perversity could ever destroy the pristine purity of the Filipina nor the innate innocence of the Filipino child.

"We pause today to honor four outstanding artists, each of whom can be called on artist of the inner soul of the Filipino. For Ishmael, this honor is posthumously rendered.

"A posthumous act has to be an expression of transcendence—it is an act of faith and hope and love on our part that what we do today reaches out beyond the confines of our finite frontiers into that realm beyond the range of our limited ken and where we trust Ishmael now dwells.

"It is an intersection where infinity gazes with compassion at our infirmities, where triumphant good humbles our transitory dreams and cravings.

"It is from that golden realm that Ishmael reaches out to us today, bearing a script of hope and courage and we hear once more his laughter–the ebullient joy of a Filipino who has found his final script, his final stage."

'Family Man' now on video

C-INTERACTIVE Digital Entertainment releases the Nicolas Cage starrer, "Family Man," in celebration of Father's Day.

The film, which pairs Cage with Téa Leoni, is filled with comedy, romance and heartwarming scenes guaranteed to bring the family together.

In the story, Cage is Jack Campbell, a man at the top of the professional ballgame with little time for anything else. His fast-paced lifestyle drastically changes one winter night when he unwillingly stumbles into a grocery store hold-up and he disarms the gunman.

The next morning, Jack wakes up in a suburban New Jersey bedroom lying next to his college sweetheart whom he left to pursue his career.

For inquiries about the limited promo, call 245-5011 to 12.

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Calories and cinema

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

PEOPLE seem to trust my taste buds. Here are two more restaurants that you should give a try.

Super Bowl at Mega Mall. The portions are huge, the food very satisfying and the ambience minimalist but comfortable. We went there at 2:30 p.m. so we were able to get a table right away.

The place is jampacked at dinner. **Josh** and I tried to have dinner there one Saturday night. It was almost 10 p.m. and I figured we'd get a table. No such luck.

I particularly enjoyed the crispy lemon chicken. The chicken was lightly coated in a very crisp but not oily batter, and the lemon sauce wasn't overpowering. We enjoyed this dish the most. They also had this spicy prawn dish which was very good, with a very generous amount of prawns, and with a great combination of crispy vegetables and cashews.

We tried their *siomai* sampler and the dimsum was yummy and had no filling extenders. Don't miss their *yang chow* fried rice as well.

While waiting for our food to arrive we were served *kropek* and it was the best I've ever tried. Super Bowl took some effort to get into, but this restaurant lived up to the hype.

Old Swiss Inn at the Greenbelt Mall. They have the best beef fondue. The beef chunks are big and the medley of sauces is fantastic. Dipping the meat in the searing hot oil really seals in the meat's natural juices. In particular, I love their version of bearnaise sauce.

I indulged and had this with their garlic fried rice, which is even better than the *sinangag* I prepare myself at home.

For dessert, damn the calories, but the Chocolate Fondue with Toblerone chocolate is heavenly. I love dipping the marshmallows, mango and banana slices and the bits of ladyfingers. I'd like to suggest that they add fresh strawberries to the selection. There's a mini serving of the chocolate fondue that is just the best dessert to cap your meal.

My schedule this past week was pretty hectic, but I was dying to catch "Head Over Heels" and "Get Over It." Straight from a taping and a pictorial, I caught their last full screening on two subsequent nights in two different cineplexes.

"Head Over Heels" I saw at the Power Plant Cinema 4 in Rockwell. I was joined by my good friend **Keren Pascual, Tante** who is the best fashion adviser and hardest-to-resist manager of Mix Boutique, and **Bettina Ocampo, Ricco** and Tina's delightful 11-year-old daughter and Keren's favorite godchild.

Bettina and I shared the "loveseat" in row K. It's so much fun. If you're seeing a movie with a boyfriend, a husband, or someone you just want to get closer to, you have to choose the loveseat.

We had plenty of room because Bettina is super slim. But for an adult couple, the cushioned seats with no pesky armchair in the middle is the perfect choice, cozy enough to really encourage cuddling.

"Head Over Heels," starring the absolutely adorable **Freddie Prinze Jr.** and **Monica Potter**, is a very funny, feel-good chick flick.

A male friend of mine didn't want to accompany me to catch it, and after viewing the film, I'd have to say that its humor is meant primarily for an audience composed of girls, women and fashion-obsessed gays. We laughed and swooned all throughout. Definitely well worth its ticket price.

John Lapuz, the "Behind the Buzz" audience favorite and a movie buddy of mine, caught "Get Over It" with me at the newly opened Robinson's Movie World at Galleria. We were both eager to sample and critique the newly renovated cinemas.

Here are our observations. The theater had very good airconditioning, a large but very clear screen located at a well planned, eye-soothing distance, and super-clear digital sound. The floor is carpeted, with running floor lights (a necessity for someone as *lampa* as I'm prone to be) in my favorite neon green.

The seats are nicely upholstered but not as high-backed or as comfortable as the ones in Glorietta 4, Greenbelt or Rockwell. But this is a definite improvement, and the movie ticket was P70, that's P10 less than in the Makati theaters.

May I add that the tile flooring in Movie World's lobby as well as the ticket booth had an appealing whimsical design and color pattern. And the ladies room was very clean with nice stall doors and hygienic water closets.

I'd have given the ladies room five stars if they had liquid soap dispensers (Ayala theaters' restrooms have them).

There were signs that said the theaters were still on "dry-run" operations, which would probably explain why near the end of the screening we could hear pretty loud hammering and other construction noises. But Robinson's should be commended for its excellent effort to upgrade the cinemas.

I checked my watch and it took us exactly 12 minutes to get to Galleria from New Manila. For travel convenience, they're sure to get at least half of my movie-going business.

"Get Over It" is the story of a typical pretty girl pining for an ordinary, though appealing, boy who still happens to be in love with another pretty girl who has just dumped him. But the film has very fresh direction and a great soundtrack.

Kirsten Dunst who is at her prettiest. I don't know if she really sang or just lip-synced the song "Dream of Me" during the film's staging of a musical version of Shakespeare's "Midsummer Night's Dream," but the song had a beautiful melody and hauntingly impassioned lyrics.

"Head over Heels" is the more enjoyable flick, but "Get Over It" is by no means a loser. I'd give "Head Over Heels" an A for pure entertainment delight, and "Get Over It" between a B and a B-plus for healthy amusement.

Tribute to Bernal

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LAST June 13 at the Malacañang Palace, the late **Ishmael Bernal** was made our latest National Artist for Film in rites presided over by President **Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo**. The other new laureates were Ang **Kiu Kok** for visual arts, **F. Sionil Jose** for literature and **Severino Montano** for theater.

The ceremonies were rendered more memorable by the acceptance speeches, especially the one delivered by Bernal's brother, Dr. **Antonio L. Ledesma**, who accepted the great honor in Ishmael's stead.

We are pleased to run excerpts of the acceptance speech because it beautifully vivifies the essence of artistry that Ishmael embodied so well:

"Who was Ishmael Bernal?

"He was an artist who situated himself on those intersections of life where good and evil meet, where greed and lust corner their victims, and where hope stubbornly offers her dreams to flower children.

"At these cruel intersections, Ishmael set up, not a pulpit of judgment, but a camera. A camera whose probing eye exorcised the demons in our society by revealing to us what we are not yet – a thoughtful, just, humble, compassionate society.

"Behind that camera was the eye of the director whose gentil

TRIBUTE/ A30

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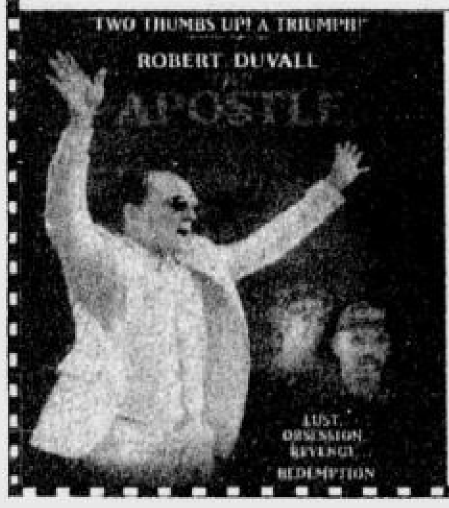
1 GET OVER IT - P 13 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	2 SPOT - G 12:20, 2:30, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00	3 PEARL HARBOR - P 13 11:40, 3:10, 6:40, 10:10
4 HEAD OVER HEELS - P 13 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:20, 8:10, 10:00	5 MUMMY RETURNS - P 13 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00	6 PEARL HARBOR - P 13 11:00, 2:30

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.


"TWO THUMBS UP! A TRIUMPH!"
ROBERT DUVALL
APOSTLE
LUST. OBSESSION. REVENGE. REDEMPTION

AYALA CINEMAS
ARTFILM GLORIETTA 4 Art Film
OPENS JUNE 20 (WED.)
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
PHILIPPINE PREMIERE
ROBERT DUVALL
THE APOSTLE
After being squeezed out of his church by his ex-wife, a Texas fundamentalist preacher's alcohol-fueled rage sends him off the deep end. After beating her new beau into a coma, he flees to Louisiana and seizes the chance to reinvent himself as a devout "Apostle," founding a new church and captivating the citizenry while keeping his sins buried. Duvall, who also wrote and produced, is riveting in the title role.
ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATION
Best Actor - Robert Duvall

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DreamWorks Pictures

OPENS JUNE 20!
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Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
Hip, MiB-style alien comedy fun, hi-tech special fx in EVOLUTION
In the tradition of MEN IN BLACK comes another funny, hip and special-effects-packed sci-fi comedy misadventure -- Columbia Pictures' EVOLUTION.
When a meteor crashes Earth carrying alien life forms, all hell wackily breaks loose.
David Duchovny (FBI Agent Mulder in X-FILES), Orlando Jones (BEDAZZLED), Seann William Scott (AMERICAN PIE) and two-time Oscar® nominee Julianne Moore (HANNIBAL) star as the only people standing between the aliens and world domination.
A team of visual effects wizards, led by Phil Tippett, worked with director Ivan Reitman (GHOSTBUSTERS) to design an ever-evolving assortment of alien creatures, which were then digitally rendered. Tippett created the dinosaurs in JURASSIC PARK and the giant alien insects in STARSHIP TROOPERS.

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premiere Ang pighati ng isang anak na may ama't ina ngunit walang maituring na sariling pamilya. Ang pagbabalik ni Judy Ann Santos.
SA PUSO KO, IINGATAN KA
Weeknights • 8pm
Feel na ni Mary na magkaroon ng second baby!
KAYA NI MISTER, KAYA NI MISIS
8:30pm
susundan ng
premiere Pinakabagong legal drama series sa telebisyon na pinangungunahan ni Richard Gomez.
YOUR HONOR
Ang kababalaghan sa isang haunted house sa Baguio.
!OKA TOKAT
8:30pm
Si Maricel Soriano sa isang nakapanghihilakbot na pelikula.
"SA PILING NG ASWANG"
REGAL PRESENTS
9:30pm
Sina Carding at Bruce, kasama sina Jestoni Alarcon at Glydel Mercado, full-force na kakalabanin ang mummy!
PWEDENG PWEDE
8.30pm
susundan ng
Kwento ng isang lalaking nakapatay ng kanyang sariling kapatid nang dahil sa kapirasong lupa.
KABALIKAT
LOREN LEGARDA
May mysterious lady killer na darating sa buhay ni Mang Kevin!
HOME ALONG DA RILES
8.30pm
susundan ng
Isang madamdaming kwento ng buhay at pag-asa.
MAALAALA MO KAYA
Ang buong grupo ng mga Digimons, hahanapin ang naligaw na kaibigang si Matt sa isang dangerous cave.
DIGIMON
8:30pm
Ang original broadcast premiere ng super-kilig love team nina Marvin Agustin at Jolina Magdangal.
"HEY BABE"
STAR CINEMA PRESENTS
9pm

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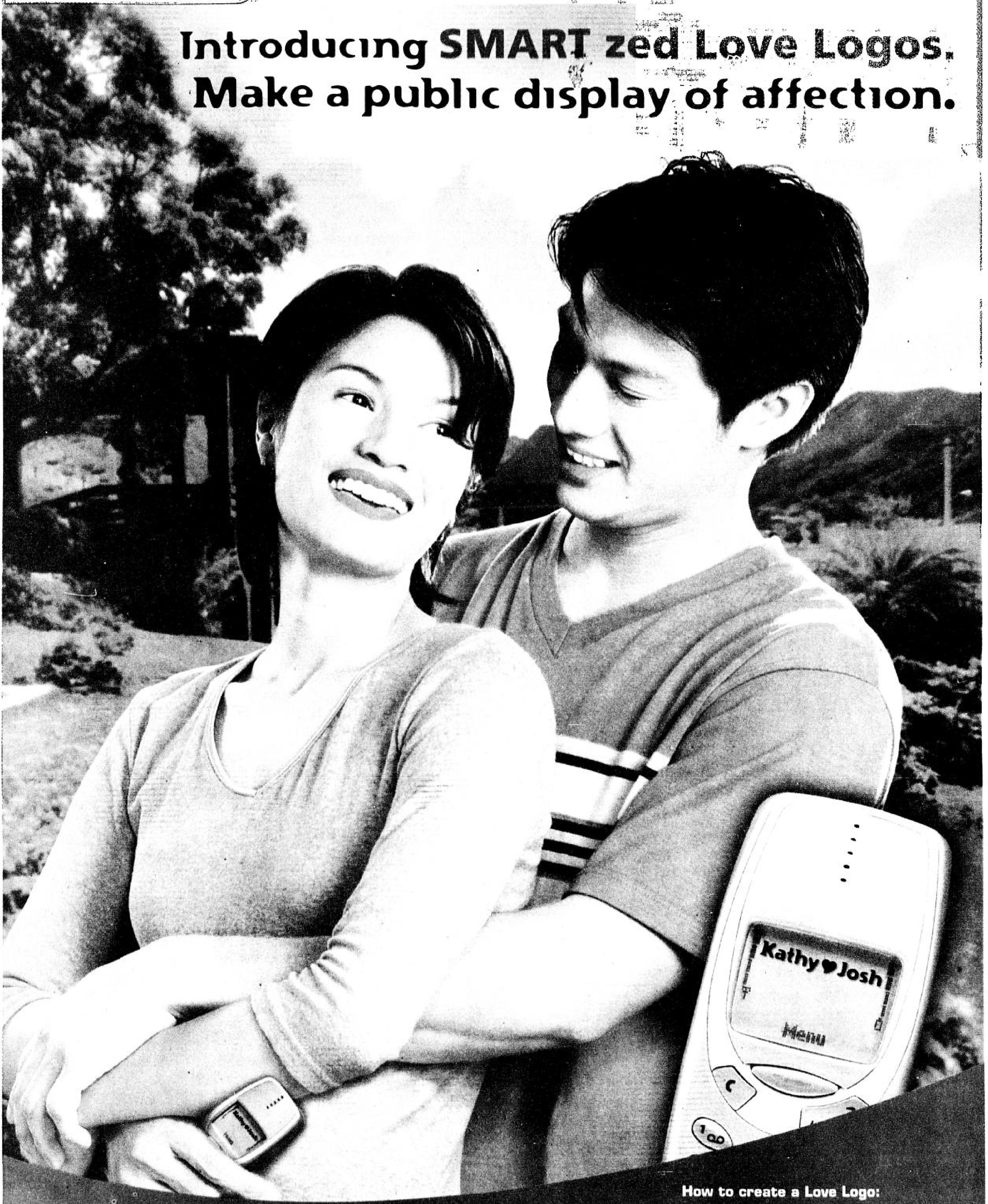

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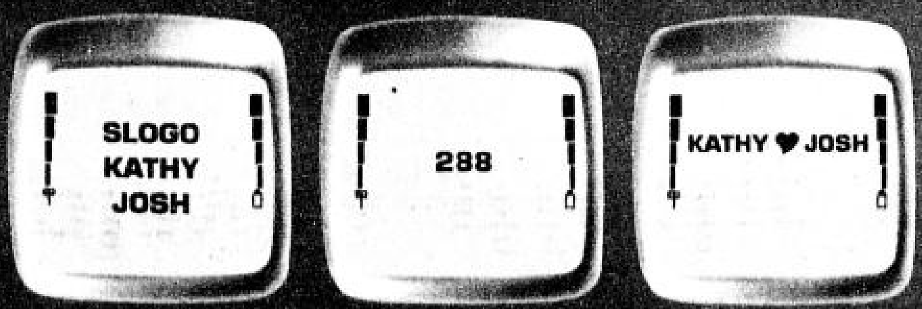

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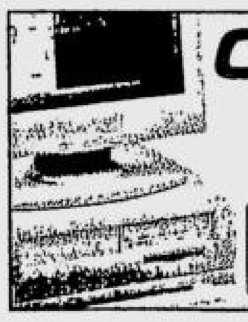

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Further cuts in BSP rates unlikely

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has ruled out another significant cut in its key rates this year as economic prospects dim due to rising oil prices, declining exports and depreciating peso.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said that the plan to further cut the BSP's policy rates by 50 to 100 basis points this year was no longer possible. The BSP earlier said it was open to bringing down within the year its borrowing rate to 8.25 percent from the present rate of 9 percent. The BSP's lending rate is currently at 11.25 percent.

Given the dim economic prospects, Buenaventura said that the BSP might be able to accommodate a cut of only 25 basis points if there would be a reduction in the US Federal Reserve rates.

Buenaventura, however, stressed that the peso could still post a strong recovery to about 48 to $1 by the fourth quarter. Such a rebound, he said, would allow the peso to average at 49 to $1 this year.

He said the country was paying a premium against the dollar due to the impact of the unresolved Abu Sayyaf hostage crisis. Last Friday, the peso closed at 51.59 to $1.

"I still believe we can hit an average of P49 to $1 this year. Remittances usually come in strong in the fourth quarter and that should help push the peso up," he said.

But unlike the peso, Buenaventura said the BSP's policy rates and the Treasury bill rates would likely remain static. He said the BSP was not likely to reduce its rates due to inflation pressures.

"There is not much room for us to cut (the key rates) aggressively," he said.

He explained that the local monetary authorities' bias to ease the BSP rates earlier was based on a scenario that the US economy would start to recover by the second half of the year.

However, even US economists are divided on whether the recovery will really happen this year.

In the meantime, a number of factors have been affecting what was earlier expected to be a favorable inflation outlook. "There are now serious concerns on inflation because of higher oil prices and a weaker peso," Buenaventura said.

The central bank chief even said there was a possibility that rates might go up because of the peso's weakness and higher inflation. "If we can keep our rates at current levels, that will be good enough," he said.

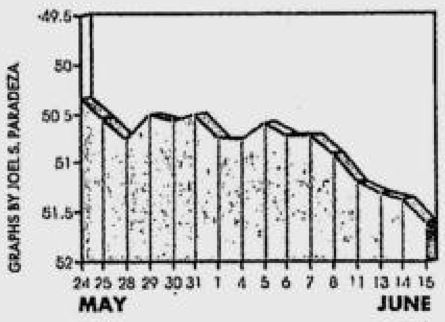
Buenaventura said that the current rates of 9 percent and 11.25 percent for overnight borrowing and lending were low enough to spur some economic activities.

The BSP has so far cut its overnight rates by a total of 6 percentage points since December last year bringing the BSP rates to their May 2000 levels.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY JOEL S. PARADEZA

Peso-Dollar Rate

₱51.59 = $1
As of 5 p.m., June 15, 2001

¥121.40 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 121.40 as of 5 p.m., June 15, 2001

GOLD:$275.50/276.00
per ounce Hong Kong, June 15, 2001

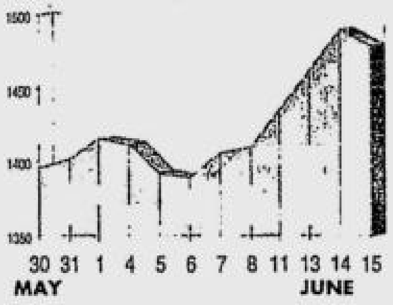
STOCK MARKET

Shares up

STOCKS moved up for the six-straight session Friday, lifted by follow-through buying on select blue chips led by telecom giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co, traders said.

The 33-share composite index added 5.19 points, or 0.35 percent, to end at 1,479.30 points. The index was up 4.9 percent or 68.8 points on the week. *Reuters*

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B6)

New warehouse mart ordered closed

By Stella O. Gonzales

SHOPAHOLICS looking forward to spending their money last Saturday at the country's newest warehouse shop at the Fort Bonifacio Global City went home disappointed after a court ordered the store to temporarily cease operations.

S&R Price Membership Shopping received on Friday a court order to close its doors for 17 days after Ever-Gotesco Resources and Holding Inc. filed a lawsuit claiming exclusive rights to operate S&R Price Membership Shopping stores in the Philippines.

As a gesture of goodwill to its disappointed customers, the S&R Price management offered free orange juice in tetra packs and food—blueberry muffins, cookies, croissant and slices of mangoes and watermelon.

Employees greeted disappointed shoppers with a smile and an apologetic message: "Sorry, the store is closed." Then they handed out flyers that explained why the shop was not operating and directed customers toward the free food.

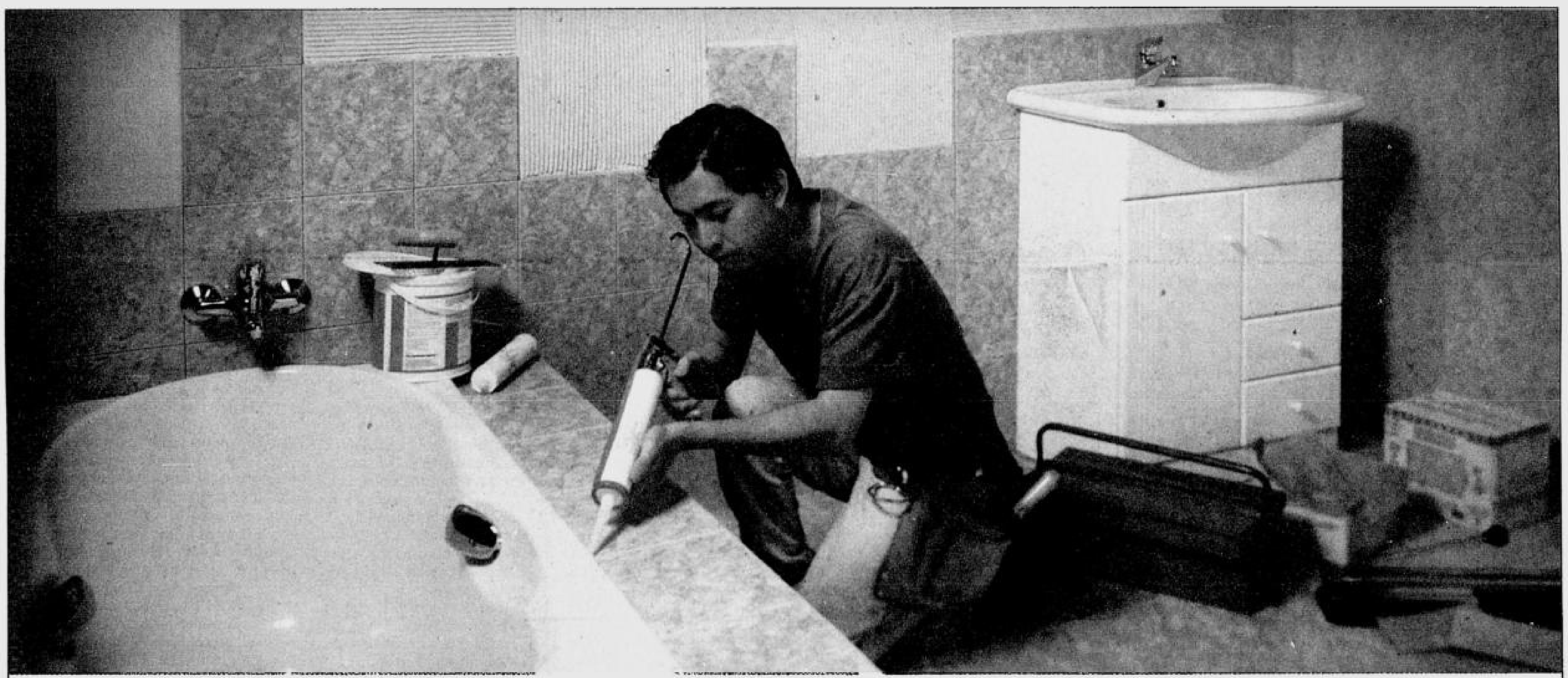
As the customers left the store after having their fill of free food and drinks, courteous employees told them: "Thank you for coming."

The INQUIRER learned from an employee that on Friday night, the store sold perishable items like meat on a buy one-take one basis.

S&R Price was the first foreign retailer to operate in the Philippines under Republic Act 8762, the Retail Trade Liberalization Law. It is located at the intersection of 32nd and 5th Ave. inside Fort Bonifacio.

The store is patterned after

NEW/ B4



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Raising the tariff on plastics

MINDANAO ONE

Larry N. Digal

THE PROPOSED increase in the tariff of polyethylene, polypropylene and polyvinyl chloride products, in their primary form, will deal a blow to the Mindanao economy.

It will severely affect the agri-export sector, particularly the banana and pineapple industries, and will also have a negative impact on other agricultural downstream industries in the region, which use plastics in production.

Raising the tariff on these plastics will significantly raise the cost of doing business across a wide spectrum of enterprises. Export-oriented plantation crops use up the bulk of plastic twine, bags and other plastic products entering Mindanao. Many cottage, small, and medium industries, particularly in the food processing sector, rely on these materials as well.

Agriculture is Mindanao's lifeblood, accounting for over 44 percent of the country's domestic food trade. One of the region's major agricultural products is banana, which is also its main dollar earner, ranking second in terms of exports. Fresh banana exports from Mindanao in 1999 totaled 1,316,287 metric tons valued at US $239,614,673 (Foreign Trade Statistics, NCSO). The banana industry also directly and indirectly employs about 30,000 and 90,000 individuals, respectively.

The banana industry worldwide has become extremely competitive. The Philippines, which used to dominate the Japanese market, is under threat by Latin American countries and the country's neighbors in Asia like Indonesia. Japan is entering a recession and banana prices have been dropping due to a glut. Various other factors, including the high cost of labor, have stymied the industry's competitiveness.

The banana industry uses about 16,000 metric tons yearly of plastic products in the form of plastic colored strips, seed bags, polytwine, banana inserts, opaque poly-bags and banana skirts. These plastic products are vital in the replanting, propping, fruit care and other stages of banana production and export.

This volume of consumption amounts to approximately over P100 million in tariffs and VAT, at the low-end cargo and freight cost of $560 per metric ton, and about P150 million in tariffs and VAT at the high-end cargo and freight cost of $800 per metric ton.

It has been estimated that if the tariff were increased from 15 to 25 percent, this would translate to an increase of approximately P0.44 to P0.62 per box. Since these banana exporters are on long-term contracts, the increase in cost cannot be passed on to their buyers.

Slapping a tariff on plastics will not only increase the cost of inputs in the agro-industries, it will also raise the cost of anything made out of plastics or packaged in plastic. The food processing sector in Mindanao relies heavily on plastics for packaging.

It can be argued that an increase in the cost of inputs like plastics in the marketing services sector will be more disadvantageous to the suppliers of raw materials (including farmers) rather than traders.

This is because agricultural production technology or techniques cannot be changed overnight, whereas traders can simply raise their prices. If, for example, the cost of production or packaging materials like plastics is increased, agricultural producers cannot easily substitute cheaper materials.

For these reasons, the Mindanao Business Council opposes any increase in the tariff of polyethylene, polypropylene and polyvinyl chloride products, in primary form. It will be detrimental to the interests of our constituents, who are mainly agri-based and who rely mostly on small enterprises for their livelihood. It will not advance the development of Mindanao, which is already laboring under a high incidence of poverty.

(Larry N. Digal, PhD, heads the policy team of the Mindanao Business Council.)

Megaworld infusing ₱1B into Fairmont

By Doris C. Dumlao

PROPERTY developer Megaworld Corp. will infuse P1 billion into Fairmont Holdings Inc. this year and make the scandal-ridden gaming company, formerly known as BW Resources Corp., its mass housing arm.

Megaworld chair and CEO Andrew Tan told the INQUIRER this was part of his company's plan for Fairmont, which Megaworld took over recently.

BW Resources Corp. was the subject of a price manipulation scandal that rocked the stock market during the term of former President Joseph Estrada.

Tan said he would use Fairmont to penetrate the low-cost housing sector instead of using it as a backdoor listing vehicle for his non-real estate businesses as rumored in the market. Tan dismissed talks that he would use Fairmont as a backdoor entry vehicle particularly for Consolidated Distillers of the Far East Inc., maker of Emperador Brandy.

Food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. is considering for acquisition Consolidated Distillers, which is owned by the Tan family, for its hard liquor unit La Tondeña Distillers Inc. SMC and the group of Tan have been holding talks on this.

"We plan to convert Fairmont into a housing and township (large-scale housing community development) developer that will cater to the lower-end of the market," he said. Its projects will make available housing units costing P700,000 and below, he added.

"At the moment, we are not very strong in that (low-cost housing) market segment. We intend to concentrate on this sector using Fairmont as the vehicle. About P1 billion will be invested in Fairmont over the next 12 months," Tan said.

Megaworld, Tan's flagship company, is currently focused on upscale residential and commercial development projects. It pioneered in the establishment of cyberparks in the country with its Eastwood City information technology zone. Empire East Land Holdings Inc., a subsidiary, is engaged in middle-class housing development.

Tan said Megaworld, which now has a 60-percent stake in Fairmont, would infuse the fresh funds into Fairmont very soon to jumpstart the company's new business thrust.

"This is part of our marketing strategy: to build a new brand name for the lower-end of the market," Tan said.

Fairmont will focus on Luzon, particularly the Calabarzon (Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Rizal-Quezon) area for its initial projects but will later expand into other areas in the country, he said.

Tan said he was planning to pursue the Sheraton Marina project through a joint venture between Megaworld and Fairmont. Tan had helped Fairmont obtain P350 million worth of fresh equity from global investment company Emerging Market Assets Ltd. of Hong Kong.

The Hong Kong-based company, in exchange for the infusion, acquired 17.5 percent of the 2 billion total shares issued by Fairmont diluting Megaworld's stake from 72.72 to 60 percent.

Megaworld, for its part, acquired 1.2 billion shares of BW as part of an asset-for-share swap involving the transfer of the company's Malate property, which was intended to be the site of the Sheraton Marina Complex.

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Washington connection

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

LET me tell you the story why a relatively unknown insurance executive with no prior diplomatic service was nominated by the Macapagal administration to become the country's ambassador to what is considered the plumiest of all diplomatic assignments, Washington.

When then President Estrada was proposing constitutional amendments in 1999, a senior Metro Pacific Corp. executive, Albert del Rosario, took upon himself to fly to Washington to meet with a few think tanks to seek advice on how the Philippine opposition could effectively bring their case to the proper US government officials and power brokers in the US capital.

Despite the grave risks, Metro Pacific/PLDT chair Manuel Pangilinan joined the covert trip and, together with Del Rosario, argued with the capital's Philippine watchers that the cha-cha move was an ill-disguised attempt by Estrada and his gang to perpetuate themselves in power.

A graduate of a Jesuit military school in New York who earned his pile in insurance and property development, Del Rosario again flew to Washington along with former Sen. Alberto Romulo during the impeachment hearings.

This time, Del Rosario and Romulo, now the executive secretary to Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, managed to win an audience with key Pentagon and State Department officials, whom they briefed on the possible post-impeachment scenarios.

The third trip to Washington was when all hell was breaking loose in Edsa, with Del Rosario and Romulo again talking with the Pentagon and State Department on how to prevent a civilian-military junta in Manila that the usual suspects from the Erap camp were proposing as a last-ditch measure to cling to power.

Unlike the first trip, the last two trips to Washington had the blessings of then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Unknown to both Del Rosario and Romulo, Estrada himself had become aware even of the first US trip with Pangilinan on board since Washington was apparently talking to both the opposition and Estrada at the same time.

No wonder that Pangilinan was being sniped at by pro-Erap columnists, especially after Pangilinan and his "cavalry" attended in full force and extended microwave satellite support to the series of anti-Erap rallies starting in October.

Had Erap survived Edsa II or his followers successfully returned him to Malacañang during Edsa III, you can bet your last peso that Pangilinan, Del Rosario, Metro Pacific and PLDT's goose would have been severely cooked.

Forever grateful

NOT content with appointing Roilo Golez as national security adviser for his role during the impeachment hearings, President Macapagal-Arroyo took time out Saturday to grace the 10th anniversary celebrations at the Araneta Coliseum of Forever Living Products, a multi-level marketing outfit controlled by Golez's wife, Natty.

Stale news is bad news

NORTHWEST Airlines is repaying back its lucrative business class routes to Japan by serving its passengers day-old issues of the Asian Wall Street Journal and International Herald Tribune.

Despite the regional papers now having same-day Manila editions, the American carrier still insists on carrying the Hong Kong edition, copies of which presumably had to be routed first to the Japan hub before being distributed late in the afternoon to Manila-bound flights. These flights all arrive at Manila in the evening, with the day-old papers consequently being served to Japan-bound passengers the following morning.

Short takes

- THE LANDMARK South Supermarket is being given until August to vacate the Magallanes Com-

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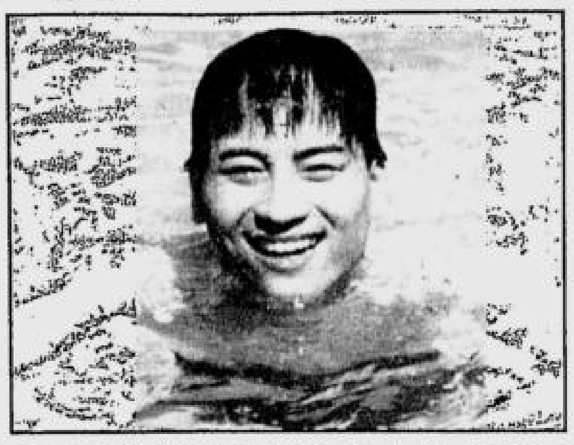

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New warehouse mart ordered closed

(From page B1)

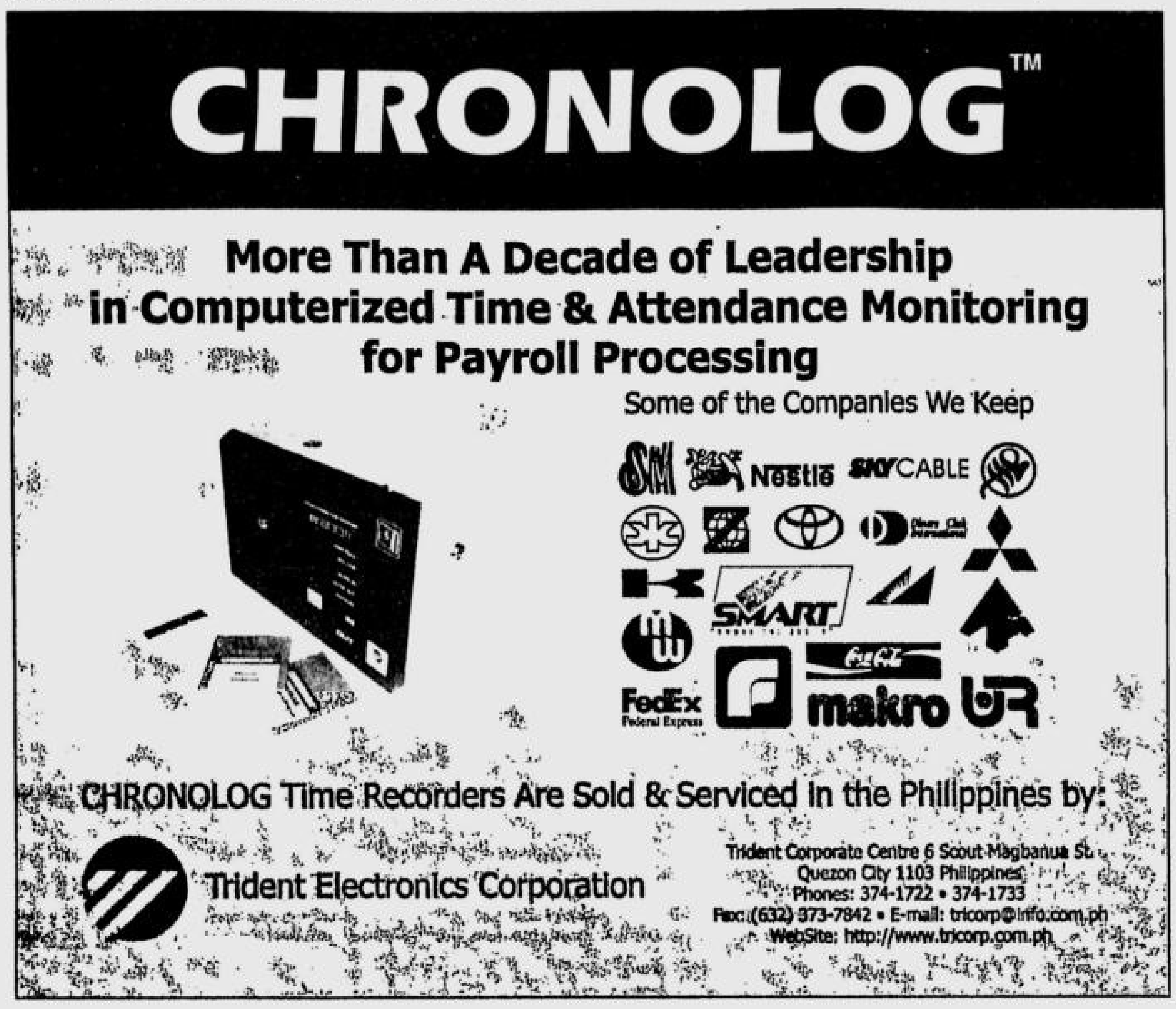
American warehouse clubs and offers local and imported food to member-customers.

In its flyer, S&R Price said Ever-Gotesco was once a licensee of PriceSmart Inc., the parent company of S&R Price Membership Shopping. But the license was terminated in 1998.

"The law and facts of this dispute weigh heavily in favor of S&R Price. For that reason we know that an immediate, full and impartial review of the lower court's decision will result in our favor," the notice said.

"Rest assured that we are utilizing all of our resources to ensure that the closure of your store will be brief and that we will soon open to serve your shopping needs," it added.

S&R Price is planning to build a second warehouse in Ortigas. The company had announced that it would open up to 10 warehouses in the Philippines that will entail investments of up to $10 million per warehouse.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Teodoro Casiño: Portrait of a communist

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

WITH his boyish good looks, Teodoro Casiño, secretary general of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), can charm any hard-hearted capitalist. Bilingually eloquent and thoroughly dedicated, he claims to fight for the rights of the urban poor, the peasants and the workers.

Last week, however, Casiño bit more than what he could chew. In the process, he proved what I have suspected all along. Young Casiño is nothing but an old-time communist.

In a media release dated June 8, Bayan "renewed its scathing criticism of the planned privatization of the Social Security System (SSS), branding it as sellout of a worker-funded institution in favor of big business." Bayan went on to say that privatization "will lead to higher premiums and bad services to workers."

"*Tay ka muna.* SSS is not going to be privatized, lock, stock and barrel, like Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS). What is being looked into, slowly and carefully over the next three years, is to privatize investment management, asset management and information technology management. The aim is to cut down operating costs and raise investment income for members' benefits. Bayan is against this?

Casiño said: "Like Petron, Maynilad and Manila Water, the prospective new owners of the SSS will eventually hike premiums and render worse service." The SSS law of 1997 says: "the minimum monthly salary credits (the basis on which monthly pensions are computed) **as well as the rate of contributions** (emphasis mine) may be fixed from time to time by the Commission through rules and regulations taking into consideration actuarial calculations and rate of benefits, subject to the approval of the President of the Philippines." In short, premiums can be raised provided benefits rise accordingly.

Casiño ranted on: "Workers will be left with less take-home pay, loans with high interests and even stricter requirements just to get meager services." Whose money is being lent out? The hard-earned money of members, more than half of whom are minimum wage earners, the urban poor for whom Casiño's heart bleeds. Why should this money be lent out at low interest rates if it can earn higher rates somewhere else? In effect, Casiño wants the poor to subsidize the poor.

The media release said: "the Bayan leader instead urged the junking of privatization, liberalization and deregulation imposed by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank." Spoken like that by a true communist. Communists hate privatization; under Communism, there is no private sector because there is no private property. Everything is owned by the state. Communists hate liberalization and deregulation; under Communism, the economy is tightly controlled and completely centralized. Communists hate Big Business; they love Big Government. Under Communism, only the state knows what is best for the citizenry.

Casiño ranted on: "Under the IMF-WB-dictated scheme, the worker-funded SSS would be turned into a shameless profit-oriented company. *Kawawa na naman ang manggagawa.*" Communists hate private profits; they love government subsidies.

A communist like Casiño will never accept the workings of SSS, admittedly a capitalist invention. It is inherent in a social security system that a large portion of the funds collected from members, called the reserves, has to be invested profitably for three reasons. First, to help meet overhead expenses. Second, benefits have been so computed on the assumption that investments will earn a certain minimum rate of return. Third, to help provide for members' demands for more benefits. *Sinong kawawa?*

Casiño does not sound like he is an SSS member. If so, and he is a salaried employee, then he and his employer are breaking the SSS law. If he is self-employed, why does he not walk into an SSS office and voluntarily apply for membership?

Not being a member, and obviously not having read the law and its implementing rules, it is no surprise that Casiño has such distorted views about SSS. (By the way, I paid my SSS premiums for 34 long years until I became a pensioner 10 years ago.)

Finally, if Casiño is unemployed and ineligible for SSS membership, how does he keep both ends meet? Is he still living off his parents? Or on the charity of friends? Or, as a full-time communist rabble-rouser, is he paid out of the blood, sweat and tears, sorry, revolutionary taxes, which the New People's Army (NPA) has been extorting at gun point from the poorest of our poor in the distant barrios for the past 30 years? If so, then Casiño's fight for the poor is the old-time communist hypocrisy.

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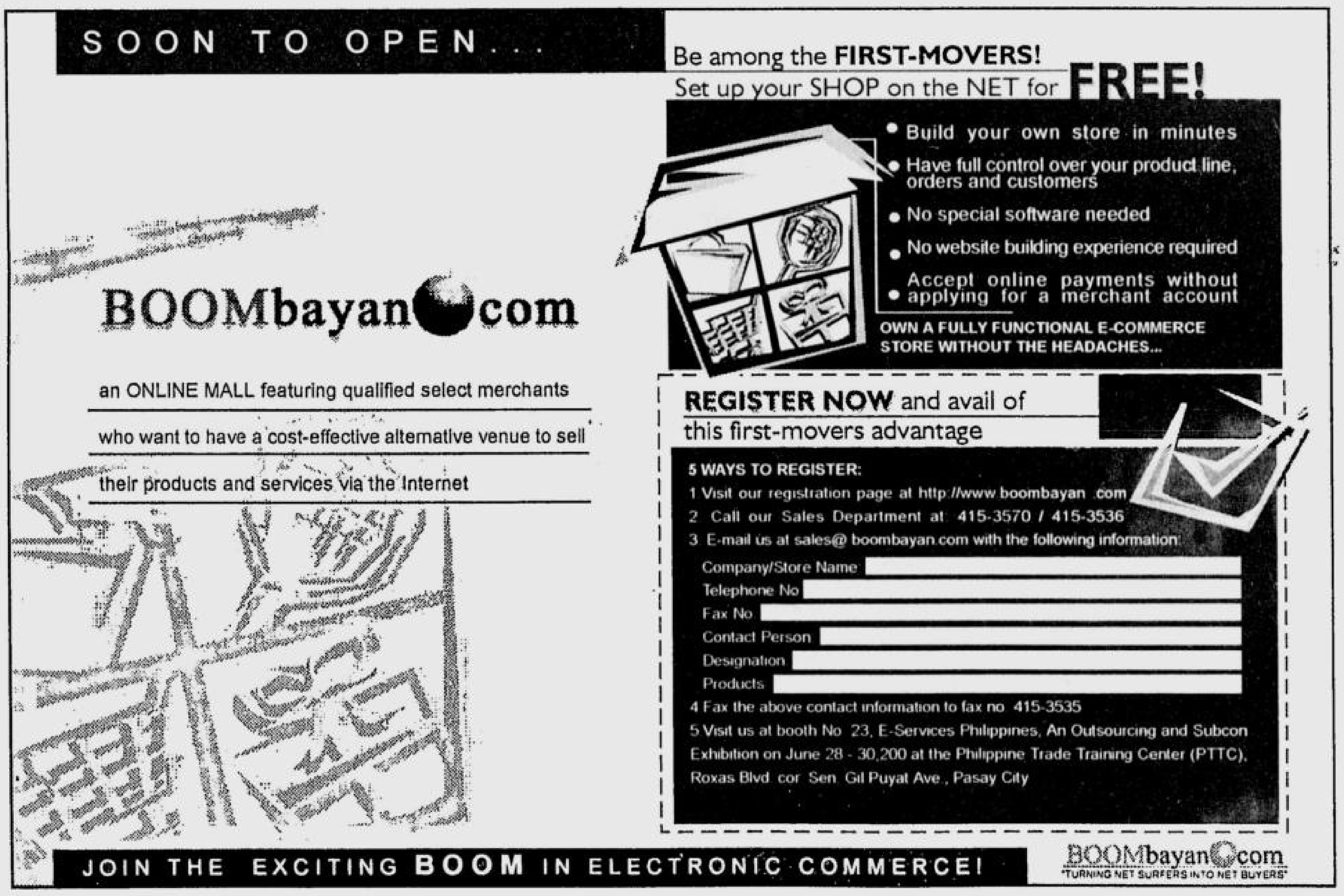
TO ALL CLUB MEMBERS

Please be advised that the Board of Directors at its regular meeting held on June 5, 2001 postponed the Annual Members Meeting, scheduled on June 23, 2001, for good and sufficient reasons.

June 15, 2001, Pasig City.

(Sgd.) AUGUSTO B. SUNICO
Corporate Secretary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Gov't fast-tracks power reform law's implementing rules

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ENERGY Secretary Vincent S. Perez said Friday the government was fast-tracking the drafting of the implementing rules and regulations of the power industry reform law.

"We want to do this as fast as we can because the sooner we come out of it, the lesser uncertainty there will be," Perez said in a press briefing.

He said that the independent power producers (IPPs) and power distribution companies were "somewhat nervous because they don't know what the rules are."

The power industry reform law or Republic Act No. 9136 provides the issuance of the rules that will govern its implementation within six months after the enactment of the law.

The law mandates, among others, the privatization of Napocor, to which the IPPs sell power and from which the distributors buy electricity.

Napocor's power purchase contracts with the IPPs—which were priced above market levels —are also slated for review.

Perez said the government has formed a steering committee, which he will head, to draft the implementing rules of the power industry reform law.

He said the committee would be composed of representatives from the Department of Finance, National Economic Development Authority and Napocor.

Perez said working groups were formed under the committee to perform the following functions:

- Implementation of the 30-centavo power rate reduction per kilowatt-hour;
- Reorganization of the Napocor board;
- Setting up of the IPP contracts review committee;
- Drafting of the rules of implementation;
- Drafting of (Napocor's) privatization plan and bidding rules;
- Formation of the Energy Regulatory Commission;
- Formation of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp.;
- Formation of the National Transmission Corp.;
- Release of loans from multilateral agencies;
- Transfer of (Napocor's) assets and liabilities;
- Formation of the wholesale spot market;
- Setting up a program on public education regarding power industry reforms; and
- Setting up a program on the condonation of rural cooperatives' debts to the National Electrification Administration.

The ERC will replace the Energy Regulatory Board while Psalm Corp. will absorb Napocor's disposable assets and outstanding debts.

The passage of the power reform law was a condition for the release of at least $950 million in loans from the Asian Development Bank, World Bank and Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

Rural cooperatives serving mostly financially non-viable areas have accumulated P19 billion in debts to NEA.

The condonation of these debts is expected to help the cooperatives become more competitive under a fully deregulated retail market.

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Ten reasons why

ON THE MONEY

John Mangun

THE PHILIPPINE Composite Index (Phisix) started the month at 1400. As of last Friday's close, we are approximately 80 points higher. This "trendless" stock market has suddenly turned into a "trending" market, with more than 30 issues up 10 percent or more in two weeks.

Technically, the market made a double bottom at 1385.

If this week begins with a positive bias, we can target 1550 as the next top, although current levels may be tough to break. We can still go down to 1300. The sun (and a real rally) does not shine until we break above 1700. This is a trader's market right.

Get in, take profits, be thankful, and get out. On a longer-term basis, I would like to see that 1300 bottom reached again so that we could get a strong base for a long-term upward movement.

Trying to stay ahead of all the other "experts," here are 10 reasons why the market has been going up.

These are not in order of importance or in order of credibility.

1. Market traders have discounted the hostage situation. Although still a serious and unresolved situation, I sense a general change of attitude.

People are inclined to believe this is a "criminal" event rather than a "political" event. It is difficult to understand and rationalize unlawful actions rooted in ideology. But lawlessness for profit makes sense. So back to business as usual.

2. Market traders like the way GMA is handling the hostage situation. The success or failure of the administration's strategy will show in the future.

However, confidence is being built by the professionalism that both the political and military leaders are showing. There seems to be a definite plan, and there is little indication that there is a haphazard, "make it up as we go along" approach.

3. Market traders are happy they are not hostages. I don't mean to be silly but with our political framework of having created an "Imperial Manila" and the geography involved, Basilan Island is a long way from our daily lives.

4. Market traders are optimistic about the future.

The stock market can be a leading indicator, meaning it might forecast the future. If so, the sentiment could be changing for the positive. Maybe the glass really is half full. Although it could be, again, "no place to go but up." Traders are going to take advantage of the future "up."

5. Market traders are living the idea of "eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die." There is no future. The glass is half empty and getting worse.

There is no place to go but up, but we won't be around to see "up." While there is still time, might as well play the market.

6. Foreigners are all leaving the market (as of two weeks ago). Foreigners are major holders of the blue chip issues. Once they sell out, the market can begin recovering. It is a good thing all the selling is over. Good riddance to the foreigners and their negative attitude about the Philippines. Now we can buy.

7. Foreigners are buying into the market (as of last week). Thank goodness, the foreigners are coming in.

That is a clear indication that the market is going up. The foreigners always know what's best. We follow them. Now we can buy.

8. Interest rates are near post-Edsa (Number One) lows. Real interest rates are cheap right now. Your actual return minus inflation if you buy government T-Bills, is about 2 percent. It is hardly worth the trouble. You can easily make more money somewhere else. The returns available in the stock market are worth the risk. Besides, there are some interesting stories with several good companies. International Container Terminal Inc. is going through a major, positive restructuring. RFM is trying to work out of its debt problem. PLDT is looking at several local and foreign tie-ups. Benpres needs some rate help but can weather the storm. The speculative stocks that we saw move last week are smarter and better positioned than they were the last time they found investor interest.

9. Foreign direct investments are down; local direct investments are up. The latest numbers from the BOI ought to make everyone, especially in the government, realize that foreign investment is a somewhat dead issue right now. No matter how many meetings we conduct, no matter how many lunches Secretary Roxas buys, no matter how much we beg and plead, foreign investments are not coming in.

But there are signs that local investment is increasing, although slowly. That is a very positive sign because it means that big money is becoming more confident that it can make money here at home. And if these companies can increase domestic profit, we bounce off a bad employment picture and stock prices should go up over the longer term.

10. Franky and I quit talking about the market for several weeks. Need I say more? We both had independently decided that the market was going sideways for an extended period. Now we may still go back to the doldrums. But at least the last two weeks have been a bit more exciting and enjoyable on the stock exchange. And with all of the time away from the market, Franky is now a black belt Kama Sutra Master.

Finally, about my thoughts on foreign investment, a Mr. Eric Angeles wrote the following:

"I have been engaged in business since 1991. I have thought to myself many times, why the government to which I pay taxes bends over backwards to get companies to come here and have the opportunity not to pay taxes. What about me? Why don't I get the 10-12 year income tax holiday? Why don't I get duty free importation of machinery and equipment vital to my business yet not locally made or available? Why is it so difficult for me to get soft loans from government financial institutions?"

Need I say more?

(John Mangun can be reached at 636-1121 to 35, Fax No. 634-2349 or e-mail at johnmangun@yahoo.com.)

GOINGS-ON

Hitachi expands product lines

HITACHI Ltd. of Japan has expanded its product lines in the Philippines to include Hitachi Air Conditioners. A new subsidiary, Hitachi Air Conditioning Sales Philippines Inc., will manage the venture.

Clark Chang, president of Hitachi Air Conditioning, said the Japanese firm views the Philippines as a very promising market as demand for air-conditioners here continued to rise.

Hitachi Air Conditioners are equipped with silent compressors made in Japan. It uses revolutionary multiple balance technology and highly sophisticated design to greatly reduce the vibration and noise. Rotary pistons and cylinders enable the unit to achieve the ultimate operation efficiency and the promptest air-cooling effect. Its unique non-suction value design gives the refrigerant compressor an extremely high hourly flowing rate and volumetric efficiency.

Hitachi is the only air-conditioner that has a fully computerized LSI. Its intelligent automatic detecting device can select operation method automatically in accordance with the temperature change. Manual operation selection is also provided with its sleep mode circuit design, preset computer-timing switch, automatic thermostat and fully automatic memory function.

UCPB unit's revenue up 77%

UNITED Foreign Exchange Corp. (UCPB Forex), a wholly owned subsidiary of UCPB engaged in foreign currency trading, posted a 77-percent growth in revenues in the first four months of the year.

UCPB Forex general manager Rene P. Peralta said that total revenues as of end-April reached P42.7 million, nearly double the P24.2 million a year ago.

For the whole of last year, the company registered a 30-percent revenue growth, from P105 million in 1999 to P138 million in 2000.

Peralta attributed the improvement in UCPB Forex's revenue performance mainly to the continuing expansion of its customer base arising from the thrust of its parent bank, UCPB, to consolidate the diverse business operations of its subsidiaries and affiliate companies into one financial services group.

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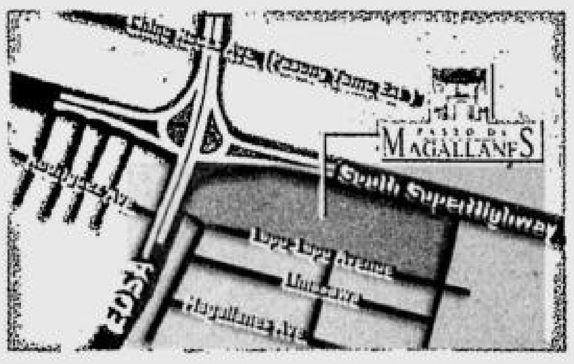

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STILL A GOOD WEEK

Stocks seen sustaining gains

By Doris C. Dumlao

MARKERT PLAY

THE MOMENTUM from last week's strong gains will continue to lift local stocks in the next few days, although support from follow-through buying may give way to profit-taking pressures later this week.

Analysts said the Philippine Stock Exchange composite index, after rising by 5 percent week-on-week to close at 1,474.11 on Friday, would have a good chance of sustaining the rebound to break past the 1,500 level.

"There seems to be some indication that foreign long-term investors are coming in, if we will assume that the broader participation in the market last week is a signal," Worldsec International Securities research chief Eric Claudio said.

"If you'll notice, net foreign buying and even the daily value turnover have been bigger," Claudio said.

Last week, the average daily value turnover at the stock exchange rose 16 percent to P758.65 million while net foreign buying likewise grew 16 percent to P470.24 million.

As such, Claudio said local stocks would likely continue heading north, at least in the first few days of the week.

He said the index might hit 1,500 to 1,534 this week, although any resistance above 1,500 might be used as an excuse to take profits.

Mark Securities head of research Manny Cruz agreed that the local stock market would continue its upward trek this week, projecting a range of 1,500 to 1,520.

"There is momentum. Despite the negative developments last week like the fall in the Dow Jones index in the US, the all-out war in Basilan and the beheading of victims by the Abu Sayyaf, the market stood well. The momentum is still bullish at least on the short-term," Cruz said.

Among the stocks that might be ripe for the picking this week, Cruz said, were blue chips Ayala Corp., Bank of the Philippine Islands, and Philippine Long Distance and Telephone Co.

Claudio explained that new funds were trickling back to the local stock market on a broader basis, providing strong support to the index.

"The bottom line is that there's an increasing number of stocks that investors are buying into and what's important is that they're still not chasing prices up. This means that there seems to be some accumulation. This might run for a couple of days more before a correction takes place," Claudio said.

Claudio said local investors might also take some comfort that the peso would not weaken much due to the influx of dollars into the stock market.

On Friday, the local currency closed at 51.59 to the dollar at the Philippine Dealing System.

In its weekly outlook, PCCI Brokers Corp. said the rebound seen last week might not last for long. "The technical rebound could succumb to a consolidation this week, as a cautious market takes stock of the downscaling of official economic growth targets, continued weak performance indicators in US and Japan and the Abu Sayyaf banditry. The support band of the Phisix held as hoped, and our bullish view for the month in general stays," PCCIBC said.

Piltel did not mislead public, SEC rules

By Elena R. Torrijos and Abigail L. Ho

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has cleared Pilipino Telephone Corp. of charges that it lied about its financial health.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said in an interview that the commission was satisfied with explanations given by Piltel and its auditor, SGV & Co.

Piltel is a subsidiary of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., the country's biggest telecommunications firm.

Bautista said Piltel's accounting treatment of certain items reflected the "fair state" of its financial condition for 1998, 1999 and 2000.

The SEC specifically checked whether the write down of P782.5 million in the carrying value of construction in progress, the write-off of P301 million in pre-paid commissions capitalized in previous years and the recognition of inventory losses for certain inventory items were all in order.

Bautista said Piltel used "prudential" methods that "recognized losses in conformity with the conservatism principle in accounting."

A special team formed by the SEC earlier recommended the slapping of sanctions against Piltel and SGV.

The SEC created the team early this year to investigate reports that Piltel window-dressed its financial statements as of end-1998. It assigned a lawyer and two certified public accountants to this team.

The team, composed of members of the SEC's corporate finance and compliance and enforcement departments, recommended that sanctions be slapped against Piltel "for stating untrue statements of material facts in its statement of management responsibility."

It also endorsed the imposition of sanctions against SGV and its certifying partner for signing Piltel's 1998 audit report.

The SEC has the authority to require what information shall be set for in the balance sheets and income statements and the methods to be followed in the preparation of accounts.

In January 1999, news came out that Piltel had amassed debts amounting to over P30 billion. These liabilities were disclosed in Piltel's periodic reports, but the company failed to inform the SEC about how these debts would affect its operations and cash flow. Piltel also failed to disclose promptly that it defaulted payments on the interest and principal that same month.

A previous team formed by the SEC recommended an actual field audit of Piltel's books and records. It also required the company to come up with a detailed explanation of its finances.

In its last report on Piltel dated July 23, 1999, the SEC found that Piltel failed to comply with its obligation to make a full, fair and accurate disclosure to the public of every material fact or event.

After a Piltel representative met with then SEC Chair Perfecto Yasay Jr., however, no formal direction for the investigative committee was given.

Last month, Piltel announced that it concluded the master restructuring agreement with its various creditors for the restructuring of its debts, which had already reached P40 billion.

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Baguio Country Club	785,000	Baguio Country Club	[illegible]
Calatagan A	110,000	Camp John Hay Golf	[illegible]
Camp John Hay Golf	350,000	Canlubang Golf	[illegible]
Canlubang Golf	850,000	Canyon Woods	[illegible]
Canyon Woods	240,000	Celebrity	[illegible]
Capitol Hills	130,000	Club Filipino	[illegible]
Celebrity	200,000	Eagle Ridge A/B/C	425,000/Please call
Eagle Ridge A/B/C	425,000/Please call	Evercrest	[illegible]
Forest Hills A/B/C	240/260/400	Fontana A/D	250,000/Please call
Fontana A/B/C/D	Please call	Forest Hills A/B/C	[illegible]
Luisita/Sherwood/Rockwell	Please call	Luisita/Sherwood/Rockwell	Please call
Manila Golf (Indv.)	14,500,000/Please call	Manila Golf (Corp.)	15,000,000/[illegible]
Manila Polo	Please call	Manila Polo	[illegible]
Manila Southwoods A/B	800,000/250,000	Manila Southwoods A/B	[illegible]
Manila Yacht	600,000	Makati Sports A/B	[illegible]
Mimosa (Indv./Corp.)	Please call	Manila Yacht	[illegible]
Mt. Malarayat A/B/C	Please call	Metropolitan A/B	170,000/Please call
Orchard A/B/C	260/400/500	Mimosa (Indv./Corp.)	Please call
Puerto Azul	150,000	Mt. Malarayat A/B/C	335,000/Please call
Quezon City Sports	225,000	Orchard A/B/C	[illegible]
Riviera A/B/C	Please call	Puerto Azul	[illegible]
Sta. Elena A/B	Please call	Quezon City Sports	[illegible]
Tagaytay Highland Club	430,000	Riviera A/B/C	[illegible]
Tagaytay Highland Golf	900,000	Sta. Elena A/B	2,100,000/Please call
Tagaytay Midlands	800,000	Subic Yacht (Indv. & Corp.)	Please call
Valley Golf	300,000	Tagaytay Highland Club	[illegible]
Valle Verde CC	180,000	Tagaytay Highland Golf	[illegible]
Wack Wack	8.4M	Tagaytay Midlands	[illegible]
		Valley Golf	[illegible]
		Valle Verde CC	[illegible]
		Wack Wack	8,450,000

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CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,900,000	2,100,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	2,000,000	-
Baguio Country Club	750,000	800,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	100,000	110,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	150,000
Camp John Hay	300,000	360,000
Canlubang	780,000	900,000
Canyonwoods	-	350,000
Capitol Hills	130,000	140,000
Cebu Country Club	-	2,000,000
Celebrity Sports Club	200,000	Please Call
Club Filipino	-	330,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	Please Call	Please Call
Evercrest "A"	-	130,000
Forest Hills "A"	220,000	260,000
Forest Hills "B"	235,000	280,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	400,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	370,000	425,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	-	450,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	18,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	14,700,000	15,300,000
Manila Polo	3,600,000	3,800,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	750,000	800,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	900,000	950,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	160,000	200,000
Metropolitan Club "B"		230,000
Mimosa Golf & Country Club (Corporate)	-	400,000
Montemar (Individual)	Please Call	-
Mt. Malarayat	300,000	400,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	270,000	290,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	400,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	-	550,000
Philippine Columbian	85,000	-
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	150,000	220,000
Quezon City Sports Club	-	235,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	240,000
Royale Tagaytay "A/B/C"	Please Call	Please Call
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	240,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,700,000	2,100,000
Sta. Elena "B"	2,200,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	550,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	220,000	260,000
Tagaytay Country Club	390,000	450,000
Tagaytay Highlands	-	1,100,000
Tagaytay Midlands	800,000	850,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	-	220,000
Valley Golf	250,000	
Wack-Wack Golf Club	-	9,500,000

PLAYING RIGHTS
(Available Lessees)

Manila Golf	450,000

(Available Lessors)

Alabang "A"	40,000	Mimosa Golf	20,000
Calatagan "A"	15,000	Orchard "A"	20,000
Canlubang	70,000	Riviera "A"	15,000
Eagleridge	30,000	Sta. Elena	70,000
Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	30,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	05,000
Manila Southwoods	50,000	Tivoli Royale	20,000
Makati Sports "A"	35,000	Valley Golf	20,000
Manila Golf	500,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

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CLUBS	ASKED Price	CLUBS	BID Price
CALATAGAN	120,000	ALABANG "A"	1,800,000
CAMP JOHN HAY	350,000	BAGUIO CC	800,000
CC @ TAGAYTAY	470,000	CANLUBANG	860,000
EAGLERIDGE "B"	550,000	CELEBRITY CLUB	200,000
FOREST HILLS "A"/"C"	30 M/ 45 M	EAGLERIDGE "B"	450,000
MAKATI SPORTS "A"/"B"	43M/ 45M	MANILA GOLF (INDIV)	14,500,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	825,000	MANILA GOLF (CORP)	16,250,000
ORCHARD "B"/"C"	60M/ 65M	MANILA POLO CLUB	3,800,000
PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN	90,000	MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	900,000
RIVIERA "B"	425,000	METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	160,000
SHERWOOD HILLS	230,000	QUEZON CITY SPORTS "A"	225,000
STA. ELENA "A"	2,100,000	RIVIERA "A"	250,000
SUBIC BAY YACHT (CORP)	550,000	STA. ELENA "B"	2,200,000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	925,000	WACK WACK GOLF	9,500,000

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ALABANG CC "A"	25,000	MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	Call now
CANLUBANG	35,000	STA. ELENA "A"	80,000
MAKATI SPORTS	30,000	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	40,000
MANILA GOLF	500,000	WACK WACK	100,000

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1	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB 'A'	-	2,050,000.00
2	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB 'B'	2,400,000.00	-
3	BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	800,000.00	700,000.00
4	CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB 'A'	110,000.00	-
5	CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	-	880,000.00
6	CAMP JOHN HAY GOLF CLUB	450,000.00	350,000.00
7	CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB	-	135,000.00
8	CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	Please call	-
9	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	480,000.00	
10	EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB 'A'	400,000.00	
11	FOREST HILLS	250,000.00	
12	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB 'A'	450,000.00	
13	MANILA POLO CLUB	3,800,000.00	
14	MANILA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB (Individual)	15,600,000.00	
15	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB 'A'	870,000.00	
16	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB 'B'	-	900,000.00
17	MONTEMAR BEACH CLUB	30,000.00	
18	MT. MALARAYAT 'B'	550,000.00	450,000.00
19	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB 'A'		250,000.00
20	PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN ASSOCIATION	90,000.00	-
21	QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	240,000.00	
22	RIVIERA GOLF CLUB	450,000 all in	
23	STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB 'A'	2,100,000.00	
24	SHERWOOD HILLS 'B'	350,000.00	-
25	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS INT'L GOLF CLUB	950,000.00	900,000.00
26	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS GOLF CLUB	870,000.00	-
27	VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB (Individual)	190,000.00	
28	VERDEMAR GOLF CLUB, INC. (CEBU)	Please call	-
29	WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	8,500,000.00	8,000,000.00
30	OTHERS	Please call	

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Alabang Country Club	2,000,000	2,200,000
Camp John Hay	320,000	400,000
Capitol Hills Golf & CC	120,000	160,000
Canyon Woods	-	350,000
Celebrity Sports	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Club Filipino "A"	280,000	330,000
Eagleridge "A"	380,000	410,000
Eagleridge "B"	450,000	-
Evercrest golf club "A"	Pls. Call	150,000
Forest Hills "A"	200,000	260,000
Fontana "D"	60,000	90,000
Makati Sports Club, Inc.	395,000	450,000
Manila Golf (Indv.)	14,000,000	-
Manila Polo	-	4,100,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	Pls. Call	800,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	Pls. Call	1,000,000
Mt. Malarayat "A"	-	395,000
Mt. Malarayat "Gold B"	450,000	550,000
Phil. Columbian	80,000	90,000
Quezon City Sports Club	220,000	250,000
Riviera Golf	-	250,000
Royale Tagaytay	Pls. Call	130,000
Subic Bay	-	Pls. Call
Tagaytay Country Club	Pls. Call	500,000
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	-	950,000
Wack-Wack	8,200,000	Pls. Call

*** OTHER SHARES AVAILABLE ***

PLAYING RIGHTS AVAILABLE:

Lessor		
Alabang Country Club	-	45,000
Forest Hills	-	20,000
Manila Southwoods	-	60,000
Riviera	-	40,000
Tagaytay Highlands	-	60,000
Tagaytay Midlands	-	45,000

Agri chief rules out sugar shortage

AGRICULTURE Secretary Leonardo Montemayor has ruled out a sugar supply shortage this year despite the government's plan to forego the importation of some 58,500 metric tons of sugar this year.

Montemayor said the country produced extra 60,000 to 70,000 metric tons in the first quarter of the year.

He said the National Food Authority was also expected to augment the country's stock with some 54,000 metric tons that it planned to import.

The Sugar Regulatory Authority tried to sell contracts to acquire 58,000 metric tons of sugar twice, but sugar traders were hesitant to subscribe to them because of rising world sugar prices.

The SRA, though, was able to give out sugar importation permits to All Asian Countertrade Inc., Cargill Philippines and Southwind Sugar Corp. to bring in some 28,000 metric tons from June to September.

The Department of Agriculture had received reports that there was an additional sugar output of some 65,000 metric tons recorded in the first quarter that could bring down the supply shortfall to 140,000 to 145,000 metric tons from a previous estimate of 175,000 metric tons.

SRA chief James Ledesma said the El Niño weather phenomenon would not affect the country's sugar stock, but the country would experience a problem should the dry spell spill over to next year.

"We will have a problem if El Niño will last until the first quarter of year 2002. This would require some degree of preparedness if this happens," he said. "Some artificial cloud seeding activities must be done in order to save the outputs to be derived."

Christine A. Gaylican

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, June 15, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	6,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	100	100	100	100	500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	75.5	77	75.5	77	2,326,300
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	41	41.5	41	41.5	172,800
First E-Bank Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	4,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	218	218	215	217	138,070
Prudential Bank	400	460	400	450	94,770
Phil. Bank of Comm.	130	130	130	130	100
Philippine National Bank	48.5	49.5	48.5	49.5	24,400
Security Bank Corp.	21	21	21	21	7,200
Union Bank of the Phil.	26	26	26	26	2,400
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	50,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	231	231	231	231	100
Manulife Financial Corp.	1365	1365	1360	1365	3,910
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1120	1125	1120	1120	2,360
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	40	40	40	40	1,800
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.6	0.61	0.59	0.59	11,070,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	690	690	690	690	80
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.042	0.045	1,800,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	70,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	10,000
Piltel	0.7	0.7	0.66	0.66	230,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	150,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	710	725	710	725	114,040
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.042	0.042	0.041	0.042	174,900,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	41	41	40.5	40.5	39,700
Manila Electric Co. B	56.5	56.5	56	56.5	184,700
Petron Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.42	2.42	21,029,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	26,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.2	3.3	3.1	3.2	13,184,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.37	0.39	3,740,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	25,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.14	1.22	1.14	1.2	3,772,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.16	2.16	2.1	2.1	1,242,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.9	4.2	3.9	4.15	2,220,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	356,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	26.5	27	26.5	26.5	316,500
Pancake House Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	30,000
RFM Corp.	1.24	1.34	1.24	1.34	813,000
San Miguel Corp. A	43	43.5	43	43.5	75,000
San Miguel Corp. B	48	48.5	48	48.5	903,900
Universal Robina Corp.	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	4,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	720,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	60,000
Ayala Corp.	7.2	7.3	7.1	7.2	1,645,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.58	1.58	1.56	1.56	255,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11	11.75	11	11.5	4,900
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.99	0.8	0.95	3,570,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.55	0.56	0.55	0.55	2,850,000
APC Group Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	250,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	136,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.1	2.2	2.06	2.06	82,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	2	2.04	1.94	1.96	31,045,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1,200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	1,270,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.12	1.12	486,000
First Phil. Hldgs Corp.	26	27.5	26	27.5	913,900
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	60,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.25	1,260,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	600,000
Ionics Inc.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	15,900
Ipeople Inc.	1.02	1.02	1	1	20,000
Ipeople Inc. B	1	1	1	1	20,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.08	2.16	2.08	2.12	693,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	10,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.018	0.022	0.018	0.022	700,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	2,900,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.81	0.82	0.79	0.81	1,330,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.51	0.52	0.51	0.51	970,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	10,000
Philtread Hdgs. Corp. B	4	4	4	4	38,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	200,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	50,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	500,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.32	0.33	7,070,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	570,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	5	5.2	5	5.2	22,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.2	132,000
Music Corp.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	39,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.095	0.1	0.095	0.1	1,200,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	100,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.75	15.75	15.75	15.75	40,400
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	6,240,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.56	0.56	1,890,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.48	0.5	0.48	0.5	250,000
Manila Jockey Club	16	16.5	16	16.5	39,000
Philippine Racing Club	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	40	40.5	40	40	128,800
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	490	495	490	495	700
Equitable PCI Bank-War	2.8	2.8	2.75	2.75	24,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	680	680	680	680	1,720
Jollibee Warrants	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	10,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	120,000,000
RFM Corp.-Pref.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	409,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10	10	10	10	800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,200
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.033	0.034	0.031	0.033	120,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.4	5.6	5.4	5.5	4,908,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	250,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	870,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	2,720,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.36	2.38	2.3	2.3	5,750,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	30,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	300,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.8	7	6.7	6.7	2,440,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.085	0.085	0.08	0.085	2,600,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc.	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.3	20,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.006	0.007	0.006	0.0065	30,000,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	20,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	20,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.036	0.042	0.031	0.042	152,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	200,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.18	0.2	0.17	0.19	1,220,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.006	0.006	163,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0065	0.007	0.0065	0.0065	205,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	125,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.016	0.019	0.016	0.019	70,200,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.23	0.245	0.23	0.245	3,550,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	1,030,000
Imperial Res.	0.023	0.026	0.021	0.026	24,900,000
Interport Res.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	3,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0046	0.0048	0.0046	0.0048	9,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.004	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	13,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.004	0.0044	0.004	0.0044	16,000,000
Pacifica	0.016	0.018	0.015	0.018	99,900,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	20,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	2,832,710	262,648,340.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	684,228,840	413,886,075.00
PRO	19,988,000	58,338,020.00
Mining	771,220,000	11,579,350.00
OIL	165,820,000	2,482,200.00
GRAND TOTALS:	1,644,089,550	748,933,985.00

AVERAGES

Banks & Fin Svc	613.44	UP 4.79
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,059.82	UP 22.71
PRO	563.38	DOWN 8.80
Mining	1,229.70	UP 75.13
OIL	1.50	UP 0.07
All Shares Index	785.61	DOWN 5.29
Composite	1,479.30	UP 5.19

NO. OF ADVANCES: 59; NO. OF DECLINES: 31; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 38; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 128; NO. OF TRADES: 4,132

CURRENCIES

June 15, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.160093	1.000000	51.3090
Japan	Yen	0.009563	0.008243	0.4229
United Kingdom	Pound	1.627030	1.402500	71.9609
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.148759	0.128230	6.5794
Switzerland	Franc	0.654495	0.564175	28.9473
Canada	Dollar	0.762968	0.657678	33.7448
Singapore	Dollar	0.639346	0.551116	28.2772
Australia	Dollar	0.612542	0.528011	27.0917
Bahrain	Dinar	3.077333	2.652661	136.1054
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.309367	0.266674	13.6828
Brunei	Dollar	0.637589	0.549602	28.1995
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000103	0.000089	0.0046
Thailand	Baht	0.025597	0.022065	1.1321
UAE	Dirham	0.315886	0.272294	13.9711
Korea	Won	0.000899	0.000775	0.0398
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.862000	44.2284
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.440734	22.6136
France	Franc	0.152450	0.131411	6.7426
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453781	0.391159	20.0700
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.062644	3.2142
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.021368	1.0964
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000445	0.0228
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.144978	7.4387
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.0043	0.2206
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005181	0.2658
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.021368	1.0964
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.094514	56.1584

Tipco seeks easier debt terms

By Elena R. Torrijos

TRUST International Paper Corp., one of the country's largest paper manufacturers, has asked its creditor banks to further ease the payment terms of some P4.5 billion in debts that were restructured two years ago.

Tipco president Elon Ting said in an interview last Thursday that Tipco asked for a one percentage point reduction in the interest rate on its remaining debts as well as a waiver on certain charges that would be slapped once the two-year grace period on principal payments expires next month.

Ting explained that Tipco sought these amendments to the restructuring agreement because it failed to get a white knight to invest $20 million in the ailing firm.

Tipco initially held talks with a Canadian firm but negotiations fell through due to the prospective investor's own financial difficulties and the worsening domestic paper market.

Ting said Tipco would be hard-pressed to compete with other paper manufacturers unless the creditor banks agree to the proposed amendments, saying that its competitors had access to comparatively low cost borrowings.

Tipco's biggest creditor banks include Equitable PCI Bank, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., United Coconut Planters Bank and the Bank of the Philippine Islands.

Meanwhile, Ting was confident that Tipco would be able to meet the P300-million obligation to creditor banks and holders of its commercial papers that would fall due on July 1.

Tipco has set aside enough cash to make the payment, he said, which would bring down debts to P4 billion and pay off its outstanding debt papers.

Tipco, which controls 60 percent of the local newsprint market, traces its financial woes to the depreciation of the peso against the US dollar. This almost doubled its debt burden, as over half of its debts were dollar-denominated.

Despite its failure to attract a new investor, the paper maker managed to make great strides in improving its financial position primarily through increased exports to Asian countries, Ting said.

Exports accounted for 70 percent of total sales in the fourth quarter last year, compared to only 20-30 percent in previous years.

With the sustained growth in exports, Tipco expected to generate from $120 million to $130 million in sales this year compared to $110 million last year.

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This series on Philippine Banking history is published in the business section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer in commemoration of the 150th year of the **Bank of the Philippine Islands** (BPI), formerly *El Banco Español Filipino de Isabel 2* (The Spanish Filipino Bank of Isabel II), the first bank to be established in the Philippines and Southeast Asia.

PHILIPPINE BANKING

Did you know?

... that *El Banco Español Filipino* retained certain rights and franchises during the cross-over to the American regime because of the intercession of two prominent Americans?

When the US took over the administration of the Philippines as its new colony, a move was made to take out from *El Banco Español Filipino* the exclusive privilege to issue bank notes (or paper money) in the Philippine Islands.

But William H. Taft (the US secretary of war) and Monsignor Jeremiah Harty (the archbishop of Manila) helped explain to the American public and government officials about the bank's traditional role as an issuer of Philippine bank notes since the Spanish regime. Their influence led to the passage of a law (Act no. 1790) in 1907 that allowed the bank to continue issuing Philippine bank notes. (Taft was the first American civil governor of the Philippines, who later became president of the US.)

150 YEARS

Air lib seen lifting local cargo industry

THE ADOPTION of a liberalized civil aviation policy in the country will not only increase the number of tourist arrivals in the country but will also generate billions of dollars more in exports and revenues for the air cargo industry.

In a study entitled "Trends and Developments in the Air Cargo Industry," Center for Research and Communication economist Ma. Cherry Lyn Rodolfo revealed that exports by air accounted for 71 percent of the Philippines' total export value, or some $35 billion. This was a dramatic rise from the 27-percent share recorded back in 1992.

Additionally, the volume of exports by air increased from 201 million gross kilos in 1992 to 402 million gross kilos in 1999, or an average increase of 11.1 percent a year.

"These figures mean good prospects for producers of high-value items, such as electronics and perishable goods," she said. "They also serve as a call for the various segments of the air cargo industry to get their act together and take advantage of these developments."

The study pointed out that trade opportunities in high-value goods for the Philippines were also expected to grow with prospects that world air freight volume would average 5.8 percent through 2004.

However, cargo-focused groups have often complained that their less controversial interests are buried under the politics of passenger service.

"A case in point is the effect of the RP-Taiwan air row from October 1999 to September 2000 on air cargo exports and investments between Taiwan and the Philippines," Rodolfo said.

Taiwan has been the country's market for high-value computers, peripherals and products, like thermionic cold cathodes and processing machines.

The country suffered dramatic cuts in revenues when direct air links were cut off because of allegations that Taiwanese airlines had been poaching on the passenger of Philippine Airlines.

"Companies in these two countries were forced to take longer routes for their shipments of electronic products," she explained.

Quoting a Pacific Economic Cooperation Council report, Rodolfo said economies that had more liberal aviation agreements moved more of their shipments by air and had exports that accounted for a greater proportion of their gross domestic product than economies with partially liberal or restrictive air service regimes.

In addition, economies with liberal air services had a higher concentration of industries producing high-value commodities than those with less liberal aviation agreements.

"The future of air cargo looks bright," Rodolfo said. "The challenge is for industry players to respond to these market developments and for the government to take a pro-active stance."

This pro-active stance, Rodolfo added, was for the Philippine government to open up the country's skies and to help turn Asia into a single manufacturing area.

Cocktales

(From page B3)

mercial Center before the demolition crew starts moving in.

- PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is flying today to the now infamous Dos Palmas resort, stopping by Puerto Princesa before proceeding to the remote island resort.

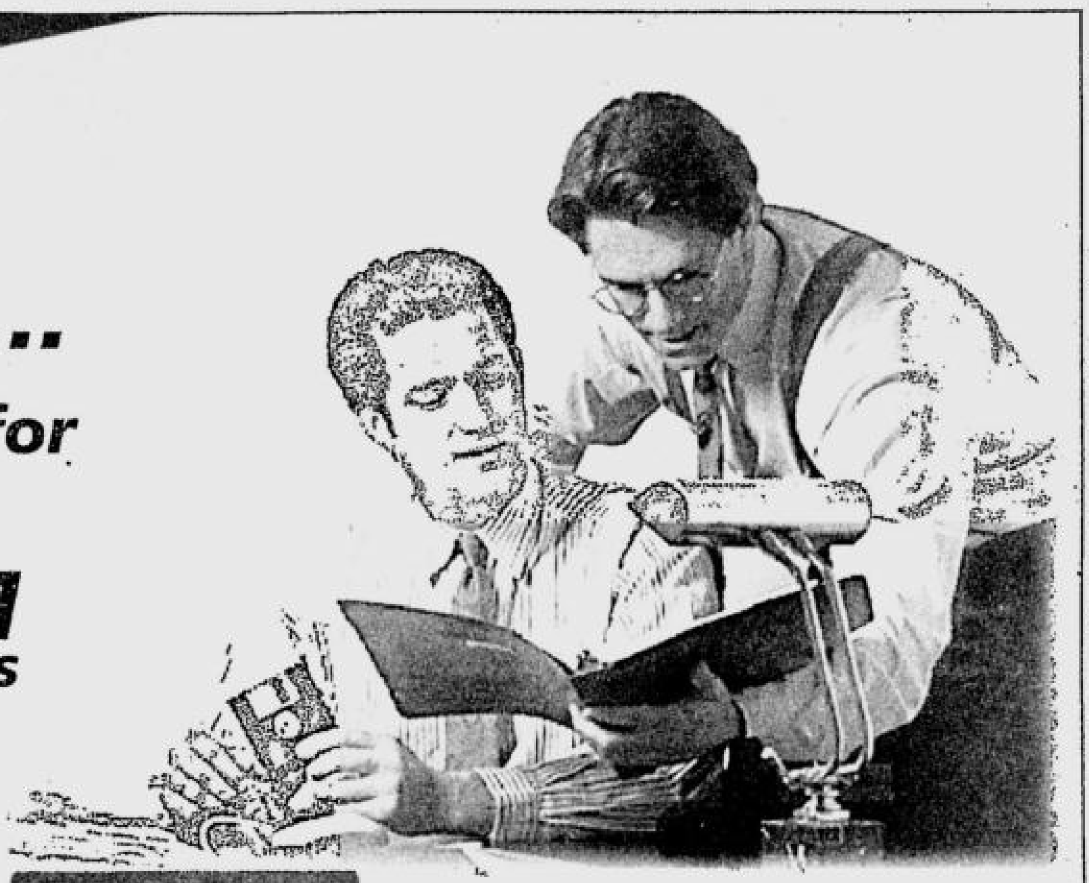
Heard through the grapevine

ICTSI chair Enrique Razon Jr. was in Hong Kong Friday to receive the check payment from taipan Li Ka Shing for Li's Hutchison Whampoa acquisition of the overseas port operations of ICTSI.

As a result of the speculation on the size of the windfall Razon was to receive, said to be large enough to wipe out ICTSI's foreign debts, the big boys in the stock market led by Vantage, WI Carr, and Merrill Lynch had been heavily accumulating shares of the container terminal for days.

A word to the readers: Please do not construe this reportage as a recommendation to either buy or sell any particular listed firm.

(*Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.*)



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ENERGY INDUSTRY REFORMS

Reinventing the power sector's monopolies

By Ronnel W. Domingo

(First of two parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

AFTER seven years of heated debates, controversies, protests, consultations and negotiations, President Macapagal-Arroyo has finally signed into law a bill restructuring and deregulating the electricity industry.

One major apprehension in the industry was that the planned reforms, as provided under the Electric Power Industry Reform Act, favored monopolists under whose weight the consuming public had suffered for so long.

The militant group Freedom from Debt Coalition went so far as to say that the bill actually favored the Lopez and Aboitiz families.

The Lopezes control the biggest distribution utility in Luzon, the Manila Electric Co. For their part, the Aboitizes lord it over the power distribution sector in the Visayas and Mindanao.

"The bill actually encourages monopoly instead of market competition that it supposedly espouses," FDC president Ma. Teresa Pascual-Diokno said.

Like a tennis match

The bill had no absolute ban on cross-ownership between distribution and generation sectors, Diokno pointed out.

"In fact, the bill allows owners of distribution companies to own generation firms—a provision that is highly favorable particularly to the Lopezes and Aboitizes," she added.

On the other hand, Meralco itself had raised concerns over restrictions in the bill that hampered the investment opportunities of local firms.

"The ban on cross-ownership is not a solution, it smacks of being anti-Filipino," Meralco vice president Rodolfo Quetua said.

Quetua likened such a prohibition to "holding a Philippine Tennis Open where Filipino tennis players are not allowed to play."

He dismissed talks on cross-ownership as a non-issue, saying what was important was for local industry players to be able to compete with foreign investors on a level field.

He said it was unfair for compatriots to keep a firm hand on a Filipino company when foreign competitors enjoyed strong financial status.

"We may be giants here, but we are only midgets in the international arena. Why are we shackling our potential Filipino champion?" Quetua said.

Strong anti-trust provisions

The Lopez group insists that the bill has strong, if not more than enough, anti-trust provisions.

As far as monopolies are concerned, Meralco admits that it is enjoying the advantage of such status, which it stands to lose upon the industry restructuring which it vigorously supports.

"Today we are allowed to source all of our electricity from our affiliates, but the bill allows only half. How can it be tailored to the interest of the Lopezes?" Quetua said.

Lopez-owned First Generation Holdings Corp. is the third-largest power producer after US-based Mirant Philippines and the Korean Electric Power Corp.

First Generation, which groups the Sta. Rita, San Lorenzo, Bauang and Panay power plants, has an aggregate installed capacity of 1,800 megawatts.

Quetua added that while Meralco was a monopoly, the bill would actually break this up because it would give customers a choice on where to buy electricity.

He said the issue was neither the size nor the ownership of a firm, but the behavior of a player in the market.

"What is important is to prevent anyone from abusing the market and dictate the cost of power," Quetua stressed.

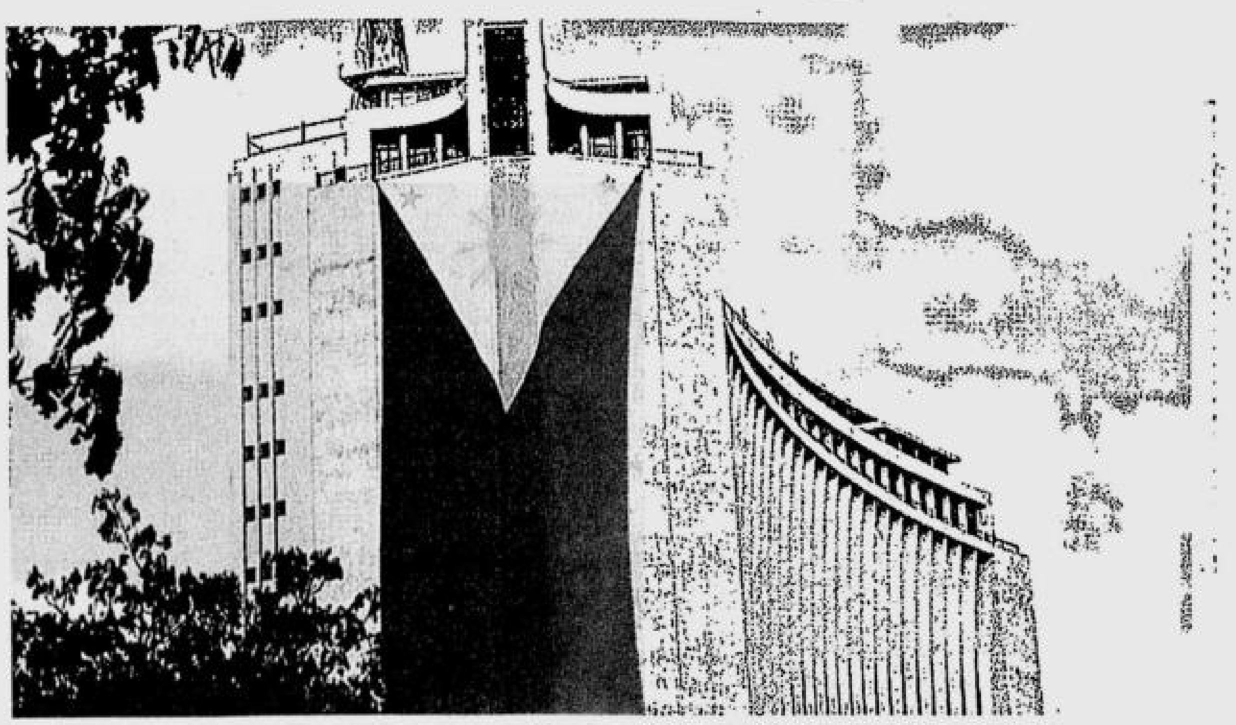
Deregulation inevitable

So why is a giant willing to enter an arena where, apparently, there is less room to move about?

"The status quo is definitely better for us," Quetua admits.

However, he said there were two reasons why it was also bad for Meralco.

One is that the lack of projects geared on building new capacity does not allow the firm to maximize its fixed facilities, which it cannot sell.



HEAD office of the Manila Electric Co. in Ortigas. Meralco has raised concerns over provisions in the new energy sector restructuring law that restricts investments by local firms.

"You cannot just pull out transformers, for instance, simply because the load goes down," Quetua explained.

New capacities would allow Meralco to use its fixed facilities leading to better margins.

This prospect is being endangered now and restructuring will save it since reforms are expected to entice investors to pursue power generation projects.

Another reason is that the present conditions include the policy of cross-subsidy.

This, according to Quetua, makes Meralco's industrial rate very high, forcing large customers to generate their own power or bypass their system altogether.

Quetua illustrates that under this policy, Meralco will charge its customers in Luzon P3.60 per kilowatt-hour even if its power cost amount to only P3.40 per kwh.

The 20 centavos, he says, serves as a subsidy to consumers in the Visayas and Mindanao.

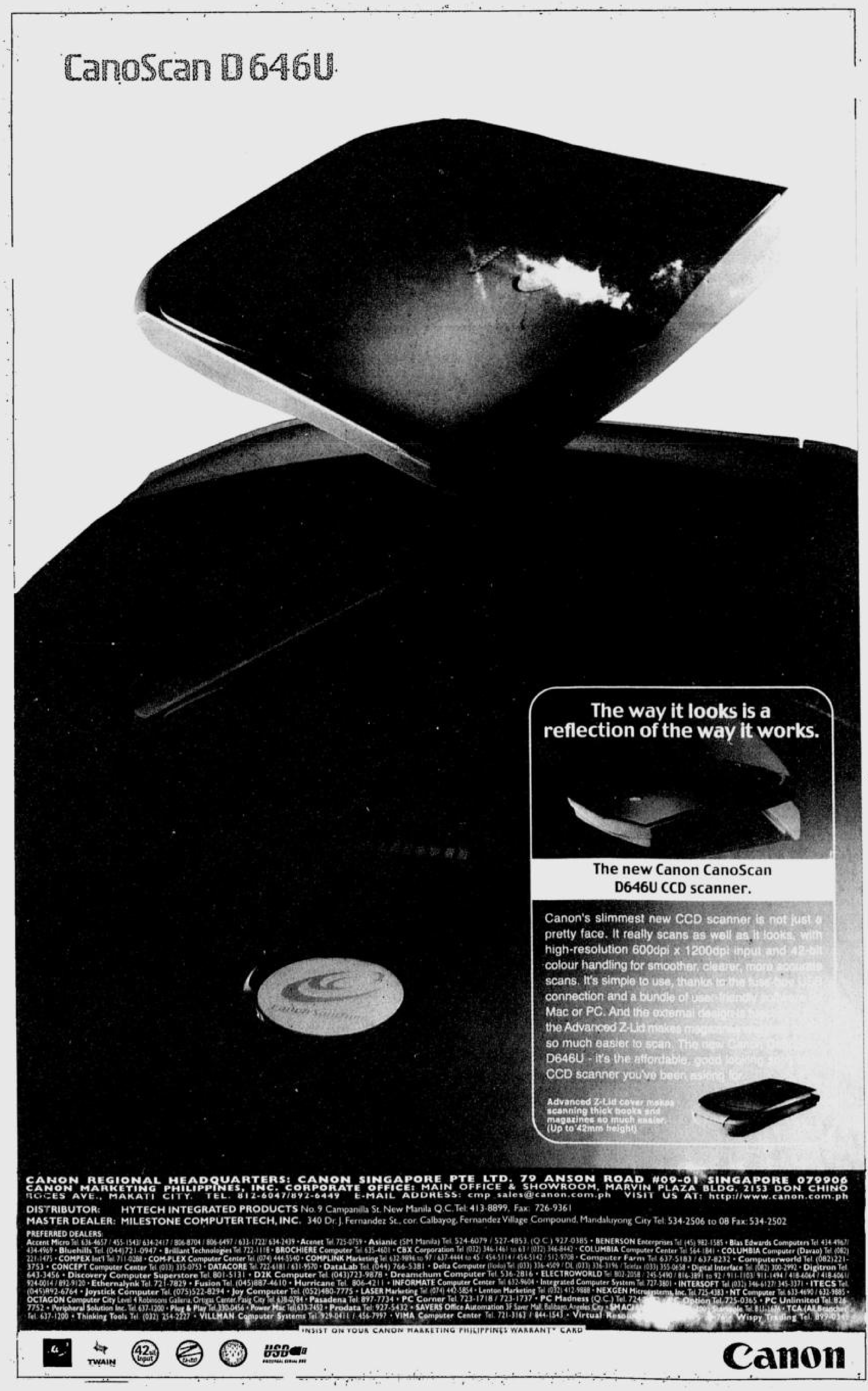
"With restructuring (cross-subsidy will be removed) and we can compete on an even footing, that is why we support it," he said.

Moreover, Quetua said Meralco realized that deregulation was inevitable and was "going to sweep us anyway."

He said Meralco might as well actively participate in pursuing a bill that would foster fierce competition in the wholesale and retail supply market.

He said it made good sense to push for a bill that would introduce performance standards in a regime where each players, foreign or local, competed on an even playing field.

Yet, despite all these, the distribution giant stands to remain a monopoly owing to the very nature of its business. *(To be continued)*



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Smart signs $195-M expansion plan loan

By Abigail L. Ho

SMART Communications Inc. has signed a $195-million loan agreement with three groups of lenders to finance the fifth phase of its network expansion program.

Smart is the mobile phone subsidiary of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., the country's biggest telecommunications company.

A company statement said Smart secured a $30-million loan from Nordic Investment Bank, another $15-million facility from the Netherlands Development Finance Co., and a $150-million syndicated loan supported by a guarantee from Finnvera Plc. of Finland for 95 percent political and 50 percent commercial risk cover.

The company said these loans represented confidence among international lenders in Smart. The company reported P837 million in net income in the first quarter.

All three loans have five-year repayment periods, with 9- to 18-month grace periods. The first two tranches carry an interest rate of 325 basis points over the benchmark London Interbank Offered Rate while the third carries an interest rate of 142.5 basis points over Libor.

Libor represents the quoted interest rates in London at which funds are offered for loans to banks. These are usually used as guiding rates by international banks.

Mandated arrangers for the transaction were Citibank NA, Citicorp International Ltd. and ING Barings.

Smart had around 3.5 million subscribers as of end-March 2001, with a GSM network capacity of over five million subscribers covering nearly 600 cities and towns nationwide.

Thai firm wins ₱2-M coal supply contract

A THAI coal trading firm has won a contract to supply $1.925 million worth of coal for the National Power Corp.'s power plant in Naga, Cebu.

PT Jorong Barutama Greston, a unit of the Banpu Public Co. Ltd. of Thailand, bested three other Thai firms in a public auction held early this month for the right to supply Napocor with 70,000 metric tons of coal.

Napocor said 11 bidders originally expressed interest in the contract.

The first shipment of coal supply for the 105-megawatt Naga power plant, which would last for 18 months, is expected in September.

The contract is the first to go through the electronic bidding system that Napocor has adopted.

The state-run power firm is computerizing its procurement system, which accounts for billions of pesos worth of contracts, to make it more transparent and speed up its bidding process.

Napocor, however, would no longer pursue plans to use the Internet to sell its contracts.

An official said Napocor was required by law to form a committee that would oversee its public auctions.

He said using the Internet would entail handing over the entire bidding process to a service provider.

"Instead, we will be using a local network of computers set up specifically for the purposes of the biddings," he said.

He said this local network would be inside Napocor's premises and would be inaccessible even to the firm's regular computer network.

Napocor's electronic bidding uses the reverse auction method instead of the traditional two-envelope system.

To win the tender under the new method, a bidder has to beat the lowest price offer during a specified bidding period.

In the case of the Naga supply contract, the bidding period was set at 30 minutes.

In the old method, bidders are limited to a one-shot bid contained in a sealed envelope apart from another that contained a technical proposal.

Coco oil exports to hit 120,000 MT a month

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE COUNTRY'S coconut oil exports are seen increasing to 120,000 metric tons a month until the end of the year, exceeding normal levels of 90,000 metric tons a month.

Philippine Coconut Authority Administrator Danilo Coronacion said the country would be able to export more coconut oil on account of bigger cargo space by shipping companies for these products.

"There has been a significant improvement in our exports in April [illegible] May because of that. In th [illegible] months, we see these levels to at least be maintained as the sector expects an increase in the volume of exports to Korea," he told the INQUIRER.

Coronacion reported that in the first quarter, coconut oil exporters were competing for shipping space with petroleum and chemical manufacturers.

"There's now a better availability of vessels. The situation has eased up. Forward contracts for (petroleum and chemicals) have already been fulfilled, so now we have better availability of shipping space," he said.

The United Coconut Associations of the Philippines reported that coconut oil shipment in April and May rose to 120,207 metric tons and 124,170 metric tons.

Coconut oil exports were at 64, 298 metric tons in January, picked up to 134,332 metric tons in February, but plunged to 73,712 metric tons in March.

Foreign groups to invest $100M in plantations

BUTUAN CITY—Five foreign companies are set to invest $100 million in tree plantation projects in Agusan del Sur.

Indigenous people's organizations, however, are against the entry of these companies, saying their projects pose a threat to the indigenous people's ancestral domains.

Elias Seraspi Jr., Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) executive director for the Caraga Region, said Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez had signed an Integrated Forest Management Agreements (IFMAs) with the five companies.

The firms were identified as Techland Inc., Goldenbell Mills Inc., Caraga Forest Inc., Transland Inc. and Shannalyne Inc.

Seraspi said the firms had complied with all the requirements imposed on parties undertaking reforestation projects. These companies will plant the areas covered by their contracts with timberland-producing species.

These companies are expected to convert 110,790 hectares of open and denuded lands in Agusan del Sur into large-scale tree plantations that will produce globally competitive pulp and paper products.

At least 5,000 people will be employed by these ventures and several thousands more will benefit through allied businesses such as trucking, housing and food. Seraspi said that with the implementation of the tree plantation projects in the province, the country's dependence on imported wood was expected to go down.

Seraspi said that dependence on imports was causing a big drain in the country's dollar reserves as demand for the materials has been rising due to increasing industrial and construction activities in various metropolitan centers in the country. *Ma. Kristina E. Cassion, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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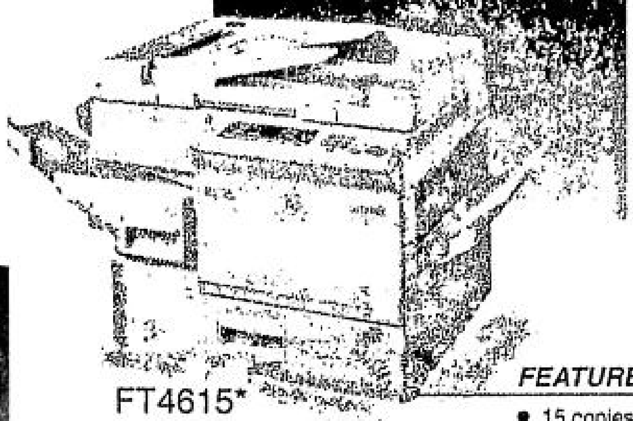

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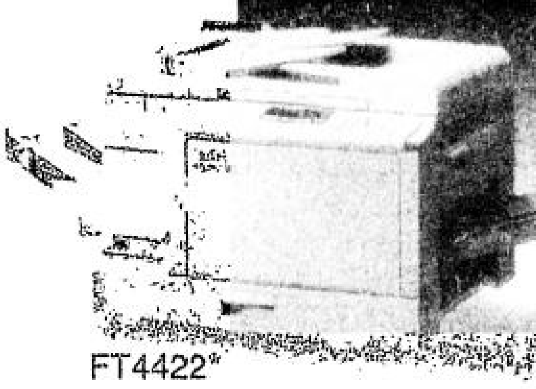

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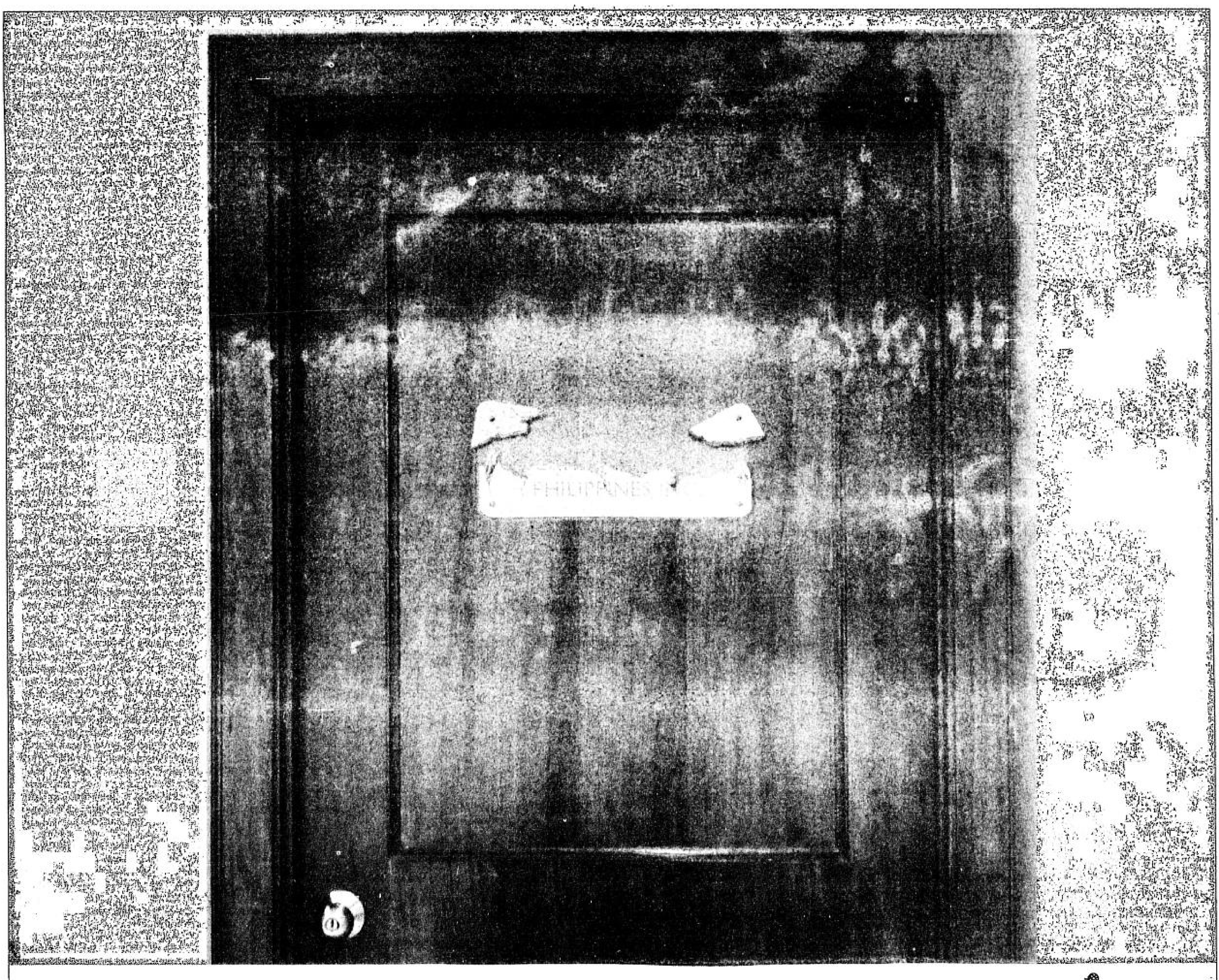

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SLIGHT INCREASE

Canlas forecasts June inflation at 6.7-6.8%

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE COUNTRY'S inflation rate this month will likely be at 6.7 to 6.8 percent from last month's 6.5 percent, Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas has forecast.

"We see a slight upward movement in June because of an expected increase in educational services. The impact, however, should not be substantial," he said.

Inflation refers to a sustained increase in prices that results in a decrease in the purchasing power of money.

A Reuters poll of 10 financial institutions forecasts an annual inflation of 6.24 percent this year on pressure from high oil prices and weak foreign exchange, but contained by slow consumer demand.

Economists said expectations for benign weather and a minimal impact from the El Niño drought phenomenon this year would also cap inflation.

Canlas, head of the National Economic and Development Authority, said he did not expect high oil prices to figure prominently, as he insisted on the government's target of 6 to 7 percent by year's end.

"We don't think that transport fares and wages will immediately increase as a result (of an oil price hike)," he said.

For 2002, however, the foreign financial institutions forecast the country's average annual inflation at a lower 5.7 percent.

Annual inflation was 4.4 percent in 2000. Inflation averaged at 5.1 percent in 1996, inched up to 6.1 percent the following year and surged to 10.4 percent in 1998. The next year, however, it dipped to 4.3 percent.

The forecast is the lowest in Reuters polls since September last year.

"Weak domestic demand will be the main driver of inflation in the second half of the year," said Graham Parry, economist of Lehman Brothers.

World oil prices are expected to fall in the second half, which should help keep annual inflation near the low end of the government's target of 6 to 7 percent.

Local oil companies raised pump prices 2.5 to 3.3 percent last month after a rollback in prices in January.

Economists said the peso was likely to hold on to the 50 to the dollar level for the rest of the year. It is currently at around 50.70 from the year-end 2000 level of 49.87.

The companies polled by Reuters were ABN Amro, BNP Paribas, C.S. First Boston, Chase Manhattan, Citibank, G.K. Goh Securities, Lehman Brothers, Merrill Lynch Securities, S&P MMS, and Standard Chartered Bank.

Canlas, the government's chief economic planner, also came up with slightly lower growth forecasts for next year.

Growth in gross domestic product in 2002 would be between 4.5 and 5 percent, he said. The government earlier set a target of 4.9 to 5.5 percent.

GDP growth this year would be at 3.3 to 3.8 percent from an earlier target of 3.8 to 4.2 percent, he said.

Growth in gross national product, meanwhile, would be at 4.8 to 5.3 percent from a 5.1 to 5.6-percent target, he added.

GNP is the total final value of all the goods and services produced in a nation's economy over a given period of time, usually a year. It also includes foreign income. The GNP growth rate is the primary indicator of the state of the economy. *With a report from Reuters*

CANLAS

Short-term debts worry Bangko Sentral

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MONETARY Board has directed the national government to refrain from tapping short-term foreign loans to avoid an unfavorable debt profile.

This came after the Monetary Board learned of the $550 million worth of short-term borrowings contracted by the national government recently.

In a letter to the Department of Finance, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas expressed apprehension that the private placements, particularly the two deals to be signed this week, might result in the accumulation of too much short-term debts. The BSP favors long-term borrowings over short-term loans.

The government's most recent short-term borrowings include a $200- million private placement with Credit Suisse First Boston, which will be signed today. It will mature in three years. It is tapping another private placement worth $100 million with JP Morgan Chase, which will mature in two and a half years. This deal will be signed also this week.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza who was responsible for these borrowings admitted that the BSP had raised a valid point. He acknowledged that "a loan with a longer maturity makes more sense."

But Edeza still has one more short-term borrowing in the pipeline: a $250- million private placement with HSBC, which may carry a three- to five-year maturity.

The BSP also has its share in the country's current level of short-term borrowings. It obtained last March a $740-million loan, maturing in three years, last March through a syndicate of 19 banks. It later tapped another loan worth $200 million with JP Morgan Chase, payable in two and a half years.

Last year's foreign debt stock, external debts of both the government and private sector, stood at $52.06 billion. The maturity profile as of last year remained favorable with the continued efforts of the government to restructure loans.

Medium-to long-term loans, or those payable over a period of more than one year, accounted for 88.6 percent of the total debt stock which has an average maturity of 17 years.

Short-term liabilities declined to a little more 10 percent of the total debt stock from over 11 percent.

Edeza said the government had resorted to short-term borrowings because there was very little interest in longer-term debt papers in the market at the moment.

He said the country would be forced to borrow at a very high price if it would insist on getting long-term loans.

Edeza explained that any external borrowing with tenor longer than three years carried a higher premium over the London Interbank Offered Rate.

Treasury sets accreditation review

THE BUREAU of Treasury will review its procedure on the accreditation of banks as dealers of government securities, according to National Treasurer Sergio Edeza Jr.

In an interview, Edeza said the government was looking into suspending some dealers who broke rules on market making or refused to tender bids during auctions of government securities.

Edeza said the treasury bureau would review its accreditation process in the next two weeks, or soon after it had addressed demands for more transparency in the way the government issued securities.

In separate meetings last week, bankers questioned the non-disclosure of government securities that were issued through one-on-one negotiations with the treasury bureau rather than through an auction.

Edeza assured banks the BTr would avoid using its authority to enter into negotiated deals.

He also said the bureau would reveal the amount and series of government securities covered by negotiated deals with a handful of financial institutions within the next two weeks.

In an interview, China Banking Corp. treasury chief Danilo Alcoseba said many market participants only recently discovered that the government, through the treasury bureau's negotiated deals, had issued more bonds or borrowed more than it said it would.

"The market has been pricing based on amounts (of long-term borrowings) it knew about. If the amounts that eventually came out were much bigger, then the market might have made some adjustments (on pricing)," Alcoseba said.

He also questioned why only a few banks knew about the treasury bureau's power to negotiate the issuance of government securities.

The government, through auctions held by the treasury bureau, borrowed as much as P4 billion a week from the private sector through the issuance of two- and five-year bonds.

Soon after assuming his post, Edeza, who had announced his plan to resign next month, stopped bond issues, saying the rates being quoted by the market were too high.

Edeza earlier said the treasury bureau was committed to investigating "whether indeed there was past favoritism because obviously the power to negotiate with any institution (for government borrowings) resides with the Bureau of Treasury."

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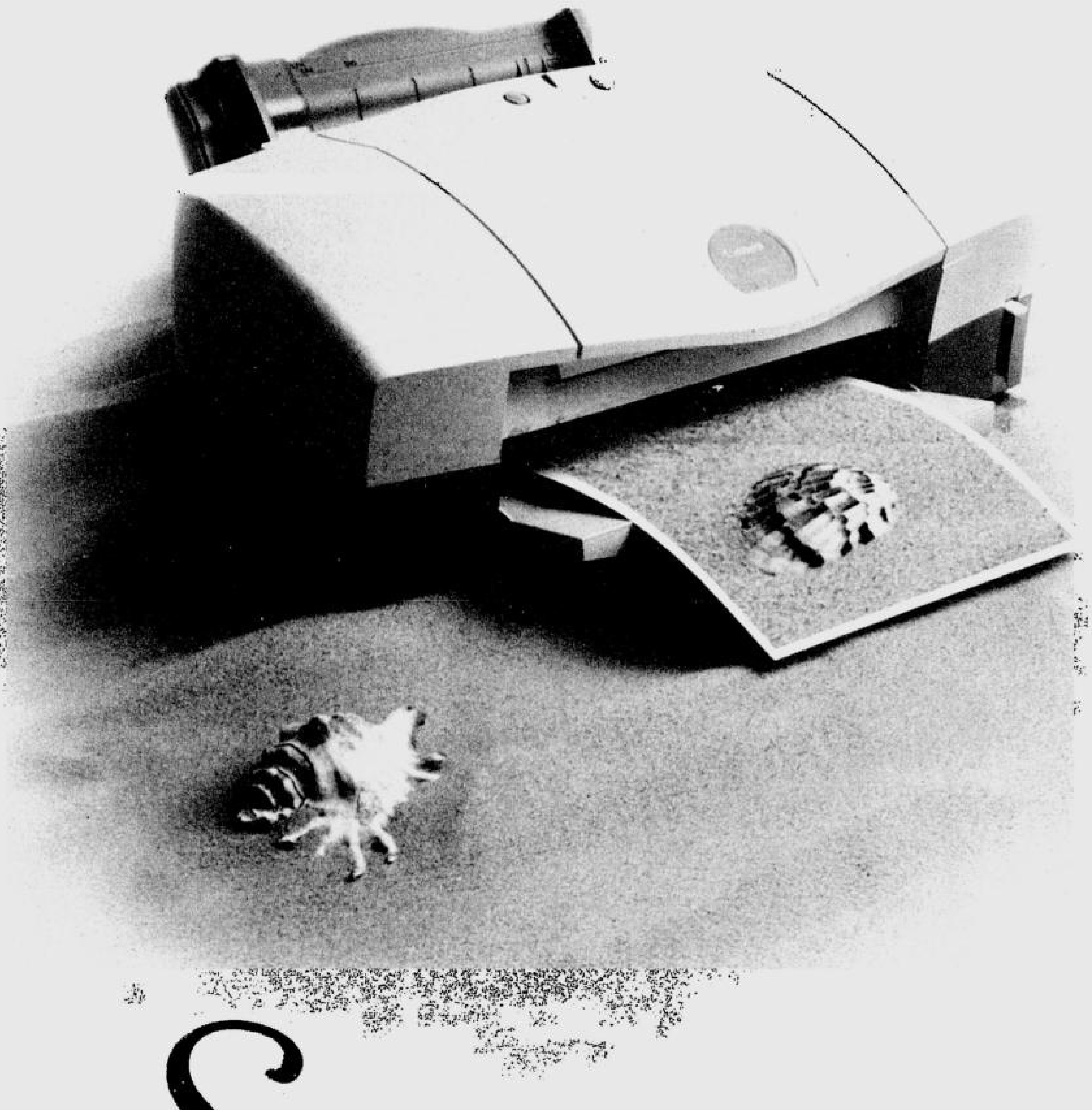

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Japan set to slash economic growth forecast

TOKYO—A panel headed by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi plans to withdraw Japan's 1.7 percent 2001/02 growth forecast and unveil an estimate of 0.5 percent growth for the next two to three years, a major newspaper said on Saturday.

The report of such a possible downward revision to growth estimates comes in the wake of data showing that Japan's gross domestic product (GDP) contracted 0.2 percent in real terms in the January-March quarter, putting the nation on the brink of its fourth recession in a decade.

The Asahi Shimbun said an estimate of 0.5 percent growth for two to three years starting from fiscal 2001/02 would be incorporated in a basic policy paper to be unveiled later this month by the government's Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy.

As a result, the panel will withdraw the government's economic growth forecast of 1.7 percent for fiscal 2001/02 that ends next March, the paper said.

The decision to announce the lower growth estimate was made by Economics Minister Heizo Takenaka, Asahi said.

Draft guidelines released by the panel last Monday indicated that Japan needs to endure low economic growth for a short period of time without mentioning specific growth forecasts.

The panel will also provide a forecast saying that 150,000 to 200,000 workers are likely to lose their jobs if the disposal of bad loans held by major banks is carried out in line with the 12.7 trillion yen ($103.4 billion) target outlined in an emergency economic package announced in April, Asahi said. *Reuters*

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US industrial activity slumps

WASHINGTON—Manufacturing activity plummeted in May, the eighth straight monthly decline, stifling hopes that the battered industrial sector's darkest days might have passed.

With fresh data also released Friday showing consumer inflation—outside of soaring energy costs—pretty much under control, the Federal Reserve has leeway to cut interest rates again later this month in an effort to prevent industrial weakness from dragging down the rest of the economy, analysts said.

Industrial output at US factories, mines and utilities fell 0.8 percent in May, the Federal Reserve reported. The drop was double what analysts were predicting and came on top of a sharp 0.6-percent decline in April.

Operating capacity declined to 77.4 percent in May, the lowest level since August 1983, as companies throttled back production in the face of sagging demand. Operating capacity in the high-tech sector fell to its lowest point in 25 years.

"It's a blood bath," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Economy.com. "The problems are intensifying. Manufacturing is in the middle of a full-blown recession and threatens to take the rest of the economy down with it."

On Wall Street, the manufacturing report and earnings warnings from Nortel Networks, JDS Uniphase and McDonald's pushed stocks lower. The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 66.49 at 10,623.64.

The national economy has slowed markedly beginning in the second half of last year. But manufacturing has been the hardest hit and is in a recession, forcing the loss of a half-million jobs this year alone.

"The decline in industrial production shows that manufacturing is dead in the water," said National Association of Manufacturers president Jerry Jasinowski.

The Fed's report revived fears that the industrial sector's malaise might deepen even more and spill over to other parts of the economy, throwing it into recession.

"We have not seen the bottom of the manufacturing downturn," predicted Lynn Reaser, chief economist at Banc of America Capital Management. "The Fed must be concerned about the possibility that the negative momentum could build and spread."

To stave off recession, the Fed has slashed interest rates five times this year, driving borrowing costs down to their lowest point in seven years. Analysts anticipate Fed Chair Alan Greenspan and his colleagues will lower rates for the sixth time when they meet June 26-27.

While many were predicting a quarter-point cut, economists said the weak industrial production report greatly raised the odds of another half-point reduction.

The Fed had room to make another bold move, economists said, given their view that the government's latest inflation report was benign.

The labor department 's consumer price index, a closely watched inflation gauge, rose by a seasonally adjusted 0.4 percent in May, up from a 0.3-percent increase in April, but on target with expectations.

Most of the rise came from a big jump in gasoline and electricity prices. *AP*

US profit warnings increase as Q2 ends

NEW YORK—US corporate profit warnings picked up the pace this week as the end of the second quarter earnings period nears. Warnings also came from the consumer sector, which had been relatively resilient in the economic downturn.

Among the big names warning of lower-than-expected results were fast-food giant McDonald's Corp., ketchup and condiment maker H.J. Heinz Co., No. 3 US home appliance maker Maytag Corp., top discount and Internet brokerage Charles Schwab Corp., photographic film and imaging equipment maker Polaroid Corp., and high-end department store operator Neiman Marcus Group Inc.

Warnings in the downtrodden technology sector included No. 1 fiber-optic components supplier JDS Uniphase Corp., telecoms equipment supplier Nortel Networks Corp., and communications equipment maker Andrew Corp.

The warnings sent all three major US indexes to seven-week lows on Friday. The Nasdaq composite index fell 8.4 percent for the week, making it the technology-laden index's worst week of 2001.

There were 25 new profit warnings issued this week, bringing the total number of publicly traded firms lowering guidance for the quarter to 483, compared with 497 in the previous quarter and 87 in the year-ago period, according to research firm Thomson Financial/First Call.

Of the profit warnings, 36 percent involved technology companies, down from 41 percent in the last quarter, First Call said.

Of the companies that make up the Standard & Poor's 500 index, 121, or nearly a quarter, have warned of lower-than-expected results, compared with 118 during the same period last quarter, and 16 a year earlier.

Following is a partial list of other US companies that have warned recently of weaker-than-expected results: Morton's Restaurant Group Inc., Commonwealth Industries Inc., Greenbrier Cos. Inc., Huffy Corp., Leggett & Platt Inc., Mail-Well Inc., R.R. Donnelly & Sons Co. and Polaroid Corp.

Under the pharmaceuticals group there was Bausch & Lomb Inc. and InterMune, as well as technology firms Avaya Inc., CMGI Inc., Ingram Micro Inc., International Rectifier Corp. and Interpublic Group Cos. Inc. *Reuters*

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Wall St. firms see bigger Fed rate cut in June

NEW YORK—Top Wall Street firms see a growing chance of another big Federal Reserve interest rate cut later this month as the US economy shows no signs of recovering from its downturn, a Reuters poll showed on Friday.

But 19 of the 25 primary dealers of US government securities still think a small quarter-point cut in the 4.0 Federal funds rate on overnight bank lending is the best bet.

The number of firms forecasting a half-point cut doubled to six from three in the prior poll on June 1.

And that number could well rise in the coming days. Some of the firms calling for a quarter-point cut said they were leaning heavily toward raising that forecast next week. The policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meets next on June 26-27.

In the prior poll, 19 of the firms who deal directly with the Fed in the money markets expected a quarter-point cut this month but three saw no move. Those three firms have now shifted their forecast to a quarter-point cut while three others increased the forecast from a quarter point to a half point.

"At the moment there are no signs of a turnaround," said Bruce Steinberg, chief economist at Merrill Lynch in New York, one of the firms that raised its forecast to a half-point cut.

"We expect a recovery, but I think the risks are still on the downside and the Fed will continue to cut rates aggressively."

A quarter-point cut would represent a slowdown in the aggressive pace of Fed easing this year. So far, the central bank has cut the Fed funds rate five times by half a point, or a total of 2.5 percentage points.

The Fed funds futures contract, a barometer of Fed expectations in the bond market, was pricing in about a one-in-three chance of a half-point cut this month, but earlier this week it had reflected only about a one-in-five chance.

Economists did not peg the shift in rate sentiment to any one piece of economic data in the past two weeks but said there appeared to be a general worsening in employment, manufacturing, corporate profits and the stock market lately.

A few big firms changed their view on Friday after new data showed excess capacity at industrial plants had reached its highest level in 18 years in May. The US economy has been mired in a period of very sluggish growth for nine months.

The Fed reported industrial capacity utilization fell to 77.4 percent, the lowest level since 1983. Also, the latest readings on inflation were benign in the view of economists.

"With capacity utilization at such low levels, any concerns about inflation are unfounded," Steinberg said.

The main gauge of US inflation, the Consumer Price Index, rose 0.4 percent in May but just 0.1 percent excluding volatile food and energy prices, the labor department said on Friday.

Easing inflation concerns gives the Fed scope to do a bigger rate cut if it believes one is warranted, economists said.

Reuters

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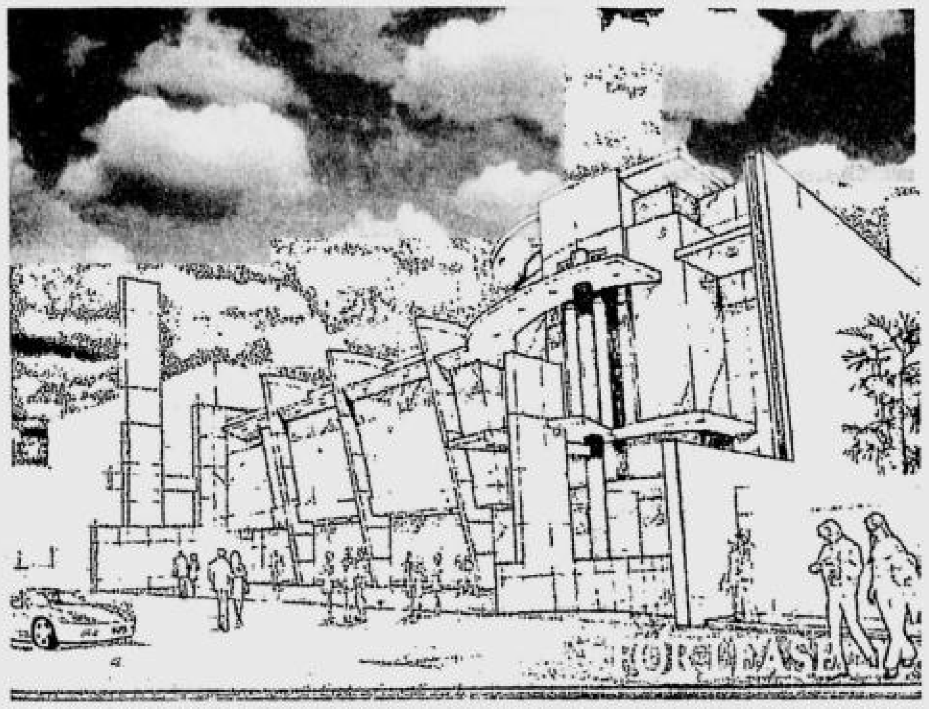

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Corporate venture capital units closing due to Internet slump

SAN FRANCISCO—Nearly half of the businesses that started in-house venture capital units in the past four years have opted to shutter them, according to a survey released by Bain & Company on Friday.

Many of the corporations set up venture capital units as a way to cash in on the so-called "New Economy" boom, but saw those investments fail and have now turned to more conservative management strategies, the consultancy said.

"A lot of people were doing speculative gambling," said Darrell Rigby, a director of global strategy at Bain. "Eventually the odds caught up to a lot of people that were misapplying it."

Bain found that 45 percent of executives at the more than 200 companies that had established corporate venture funds from 1996 to 2000 had chosen to dump those efforts by the time they responded to the survey in the first quarter of this year.

That defection rate was the highest ever notched for an area of management practice in the survey's 8-year history, Rigby said.

Interviews with executives also revealed doubts about corporate venture capital, Rigby said.

"The most common thing we heard was 'We got caught up in a tidal wave of positive press about corporate venture and didn't really understand how to use it correctly and now we're paying the price,'" he said.

Even so, the fast retreat from corporate venture investing could carry costs of its own, Rigby said.

"Some of those folks could be throwing the baby out with the bathwater," Rigby said. "It could be a valid tool if used properly. But they're feeling burned, and they're facing earning pressures so they're trying to cut their losses as quickly as possible."

Reuters

Laid-off high-tech workers ending up in homeless shelters

SAN JOSE, California—Mike Schlenz, who recently installed computer networks for a living, had been sleeping in his Honda Civic for three months before he went to a homeless shelter.

John Sacrosante, who earned more than $100,000 a year as a free-lance database engineer, spent his 39th birthday last week with the "brothers" he met at the church shelter where he has been living.

Both are casualties of the dotcom bust in Silicon Valley, where a surprising number of former high-tech workers are rubbing elbows with society's castaways—the mentally ill, drug addicts and other hard-luck cases—in homeless shelters.

"We're all equal here," Sacrosante said. "When you're used to making six figures and working in a dynamic and exciting environment and all of a sudden it goes away, you do have a nice little world of depression going on.'"

Nearly 30 unemployed tech workers are among the 100 men at the Montgomery Street Inn and other shelters in San Jose run by InnVision, said Robbie Reinhart, director of the nonprofit organization.

"They're not what we used to call hobos on the street Most have college degrees," she said.

Dotcom failures sent San Francisco's unemployment rate up to 4.2 percent in May from a rock bottom 2.6 percent a year ago—with 18,000 people added, according to a state report.

In Santa Clara County, the heart of Silicon Valley, layoffs in electronic equipment manufacturing and business services rose for the fifth straight month, contributing to a 3.2-percent unemployment rate in May

Reinhart said most of the tech workers she sees have had their contracts canceled or been laid off from start-ups and other smaller technology companies. Other shelter residents still have jobs but don't make enough to afford the high price of living alone in the valley, she said.

Top consultants and contractors once named their salaries in the valley. Now, even those who qualify for unemployment benefits soon discover the $40 to $230 weekly check will not cover an apartment here, where rent averages around $1,800 a month.

Suicide and crisis hot line operators in San Francisco and Santa Clara counties report that job-related calls nearly doubled from October to April. Many callers complained of lost jobs or feared they would soon be out of work.

Schlenz, 35, a Bay Area native with a degree in environmental chemistry, made as much as $60,000 a year as a free-lance contractor, installing Unix networks, configuring routers and working in desktop support for small companies. Then his jobs disappeared.

AP

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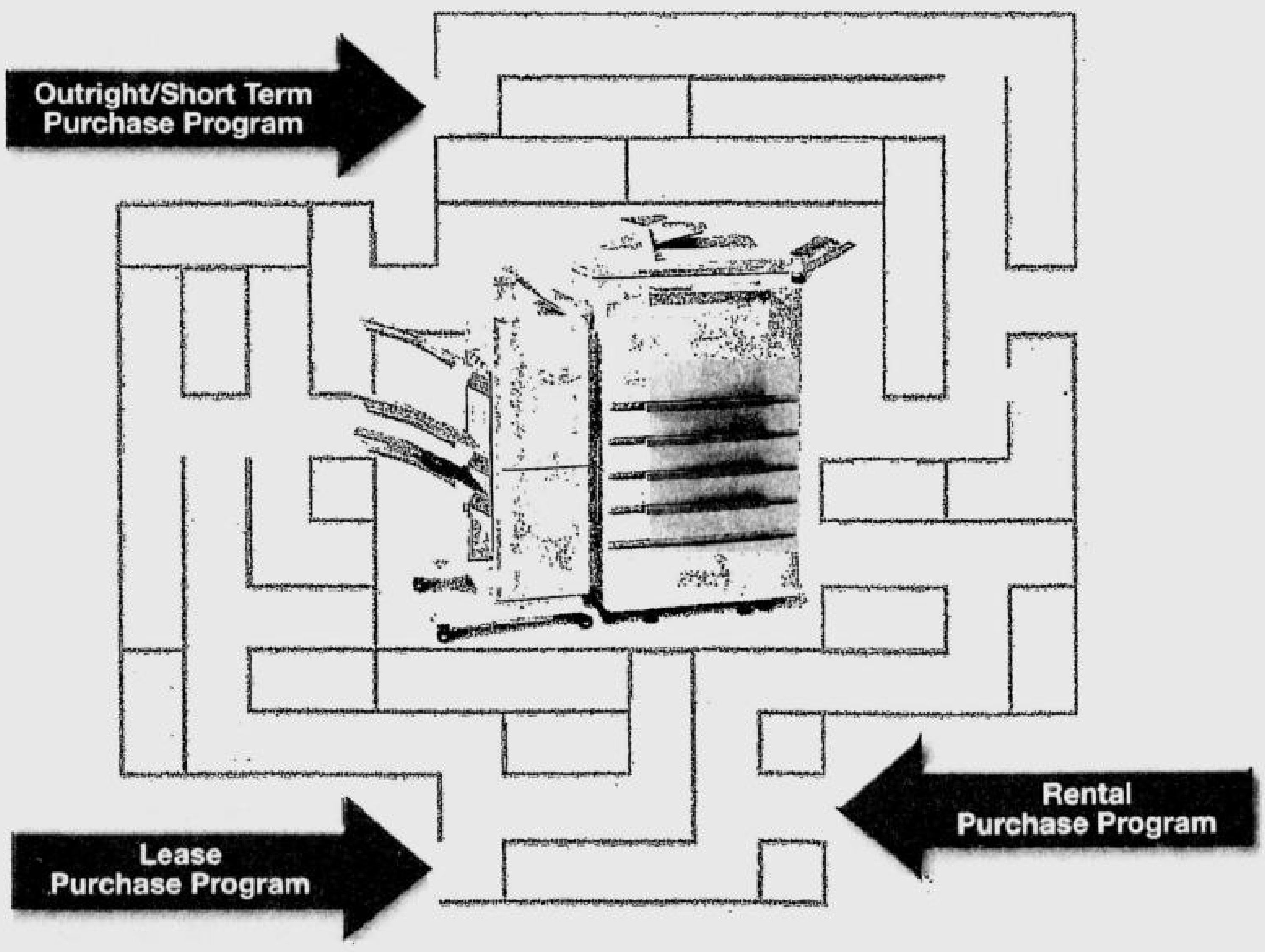

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McDonald's warns on profit figures

CHICAGO—Fast-food giant McDonald's Corp. on Friday forecast that its second-quarter earnings would be below Wall Street expectations as a strong US dollar and lingering concerns over mad cow disease in Europe continued to hurt results.

The news, which sent McDonald's shares more than 4 percent lower on the day, marked the third quarterly earnings warning in a row for the world's largest restaurant company.

In a reversal of its bullish overseas expansion strategy, McDonald's also said it would cut capital spending in parts of Latin America and Asia, where economic downturns had slowed consumer demand for its menu of hamburgers and french fries.

McDonald's, based in the Chicago suburb of Oak Brook, Illinois, said it expected to earn 34 to 35 cents a share in the second quarter, down from 39 cents last year. The company was slated to earn 36 to 40 cents, with a mean estimate of 38 cents, according to a poll of 16 analysts by research firm Thomson Financial/First Call.

"Clearly we are not satisfied with the near-term earnings scenario we have described today," McDonald's chair and chief executive Jack Greenberg told analysts on a teleconference to discuss forecasts. He added that McDonald's latest earnings projections, which called for "relatively flat" 2001 earnings on a constant currency basis, were "realistic."

If currency exchange rates remained as they were, the company said the strong US dollar could shave about 6 cents off full-year reported earnings. The "Golden Arches" can be found in about 120 countries worldwide. First Call pegs 2001 reported earnings at $1.49 a share on average, compared with $1.46 earned a year ago.

The company stressed its latest measures to strengthen global sales, including adding more non-beef menu items in key overseas markets and a renewed emphasis on food quality and cleanliness in the US, would result in sequential earnings improvement for the remainder of 2001.

Reuters

Singaporean execs worried about jobs

SINGAPORE—Many executives in Singapore are afraid of losing their jobs because of the fast pace of mergers and acquisitions as the global economy slows down, the executive director of the Singapore Human Resources Institute said Saturday.

Membership in the Singapore Professionals' and Executives' Cooperative, formed by the institute to help executives who fear their jobs are on the line, has surged in recent months, David Ang said.

Bankers, managers, and other professionals who have lost their jobs—or fear they may soon—are turning to the cooperative for moral support and financial assistance, Ang said.

"Since the financial crisis of 1997, quite a few executives have lost their jobs through restructuring and merging and consolidating of businesses," Ang said.

The cooperative, which has 300 members, provides counseling and basic insurance and medical benefits for people who have lost their job, he said.

AP

GE, Honeywell refuse to meet EU conditions

BRUSSELS, Belgium—The $41 billion merger of General Electric Co. and Honeywell International has been all but called off after the companies refused Europe's demands to cut the size of the combined company.

European Union Commission spokeswoman Amelia Torres said Friday that both companies still have "limited opportunity to submit modified proposals."

A GE spokesman said Friday that the companies won't make changes to a divestiture plan they submitted that was rejected by EU officials.

"We will not make another proposal," said the spokesman, Gary Sheffer. "Negotiations are over."

After spending two days in Brussels trying to salvage the deal, GE chairman and chief executive Jack Welch said the companies could not agree to terms laid down by EU regulators.

"In this case, the European regulators' demands exceeded anything I or our European advisers imagined," Welch said Thursday.

Honeywell also said it still wants to merge with GE, but announced it was now considering its future as a stand-alone entity.

"We have a comprehensive contingency plan in place if we must move forward as an independent company," said Honeywell's chairman and CEO, Michael R. Bonsignore.

Asked about the GE-Honeywell talks Friday during a news conference in Warsaw, President George W. Bush said he was "concerned that the Europeans have rejected it."

In Paris, US Commerce Secretary Don Evans urged the EU Commission to approve the deal, saying a successful deal would be "a positive kind of step for free trade."

"I would encourage (the EU) to think how constructive a merger like this would be," Evans said.

United Technologies officials held informal meetings Thursday about the possibility of making a bid for Honeywell, The New York Times reported Friday, citing unidentified sources. United Technologies was in such discussions last fall, but called off the talks after GE emerged as a Honeywell suitor.

The proposal submitted by GE and Honeywell to the European Commission included $2.2 billion in divestitures but did not come close to meeting conditions set by the commission, Welch said.

GE said regulators were demanding billions more in divestitures of virtually all of Honeywell's aviation electronics business and its production of generating systems that provide power to planes while they are on the ground.

Welch said his company has "always said there is a point at which we wouldn't do the deal."

EU regulators will now pass along details of the GE offer to competitors and national antitrust authorities for comment, assess the responses and make a final recommendation to the European Commission, which will issue a decision by July 12.

But GE said it was not optimistic that its proposal will be approved.

Rejection would kill Welch's vision of combining GE's dominant aircraft engine and servicing business with Honeywell, a key supplier of aircraft electronics for commercial jets and air traffic control systems.

It would also be a personal blow for Welch, who postponed his retirement until the end of 2001 to oversee the merger, which was approved by US regulators in May. *AP*

ECONOMY Minister Heizo Takenaka, (left), whispers to Financial System Minister Hakuo Yanagisawa as they attend a Cabinet meeting for the monthly economic report at the Prime Minister's official residence in Tokyo, last June 14. Japan's government downgraded its key economic assessment for the fifth month in a row, acknowledging that the world's second biggest economy was in deeper trouble AP

$8.7-B Kraft IPO latest stock offering in sluggish market

NEW YORK—The anticipation surrounding the initial public offering of Kraft Foods this week—the second biggest IPO ever at $8.7 billion—brought back memories of the euphoria once associated with new stocks.

But don't expect to see a rush of similar debuts.

As Kraft stock's subsequent lukewarm performance illustrated, the market's weak condition has made such launches a hard sale. So far this year, there have been about 40 IPOs, compared with about 216 at the same point in 2000, according to IPO.com, a news and research site.

"When you have a broader market dominated by pessimism, and that's basically what we've had since October, it's very difficult to have a lot of IPOs to come out. People are looking for security, and newer stocks tend to carry more risk," said Kyle Huske, a market analyst with IPO.com. "We had five deals price this week and four last week. This is the most active period we've had this year."

The type of IPOs coming to market also has changed.

About 200 of the 216 IPOs priced from Jan. 1 to June 15, 2000 were offered on the Nasdaq Stock Market, according to IPO.com. More than half were Internet or technology related and not all survived. Remember Pets.com?

So far this year, the offerings split nearly evenly between the Nasdaq and New York Stock Exchange. And energy related deals, not technology or Internet, are the biggest sector within IPOs.

The characteristics of IPOs have changed to reflect the sluggish economy. Unlike many of the dotcoms and other businesses that debuted in 1999 and the first half of 2000, companies going public today are more likely to have track records and already be profitable.

"We've seen a gradual trend upward in terms of deal sizes and the market caps of companies going public," said Randall Roth, research analyst with Renaissance Capital. "Basically, you're seeing a lot more spin-offs or foreign companies coming to market."

One example: The Kraft Foods' IPO, which raised $8.7 billion through 280 million shares Wednesday. Spun off by Philip Morris, Kraft already had an established business and one of the best-known brands in America.

The stock has struggled, though. It closed at $30.60 Friday, below the $31 per share level the stock was originally priced at, but analysts weren't alarmed. *AP*

EU leaders approve new policies

GOTEBORG, Sweden—European Union leaders on Friday approved a new set of economic policy guidelines that reiterate the need for balanced budgets and reforms to boost growth and employment.

The EU summit approved the non-binding guidelines as Sweden, which holds the rotating EU presidency, insisted the region's growth outlook remained bright despite an economic slowdown linked to the US downturn and high oil prices.

"Growth in the EU last year was high and unemployment fell to its lowest level for 10 years. Recently, however, an economic decline has been apparent," the Swedish government said in a statement.

"The conditions for healthy growth nevertheless continue to be strong. Our fundamental economic indicators are stable," the government added.

The guidelines stem from a proposal by the European Commission, the executive branch of the 15-member bloc. They were provisionally approved last week by EU finance ministers with only minor changes.

The Commission forecasts EU growth this year of 2.8 percent down from 3.4 percent growth last year.

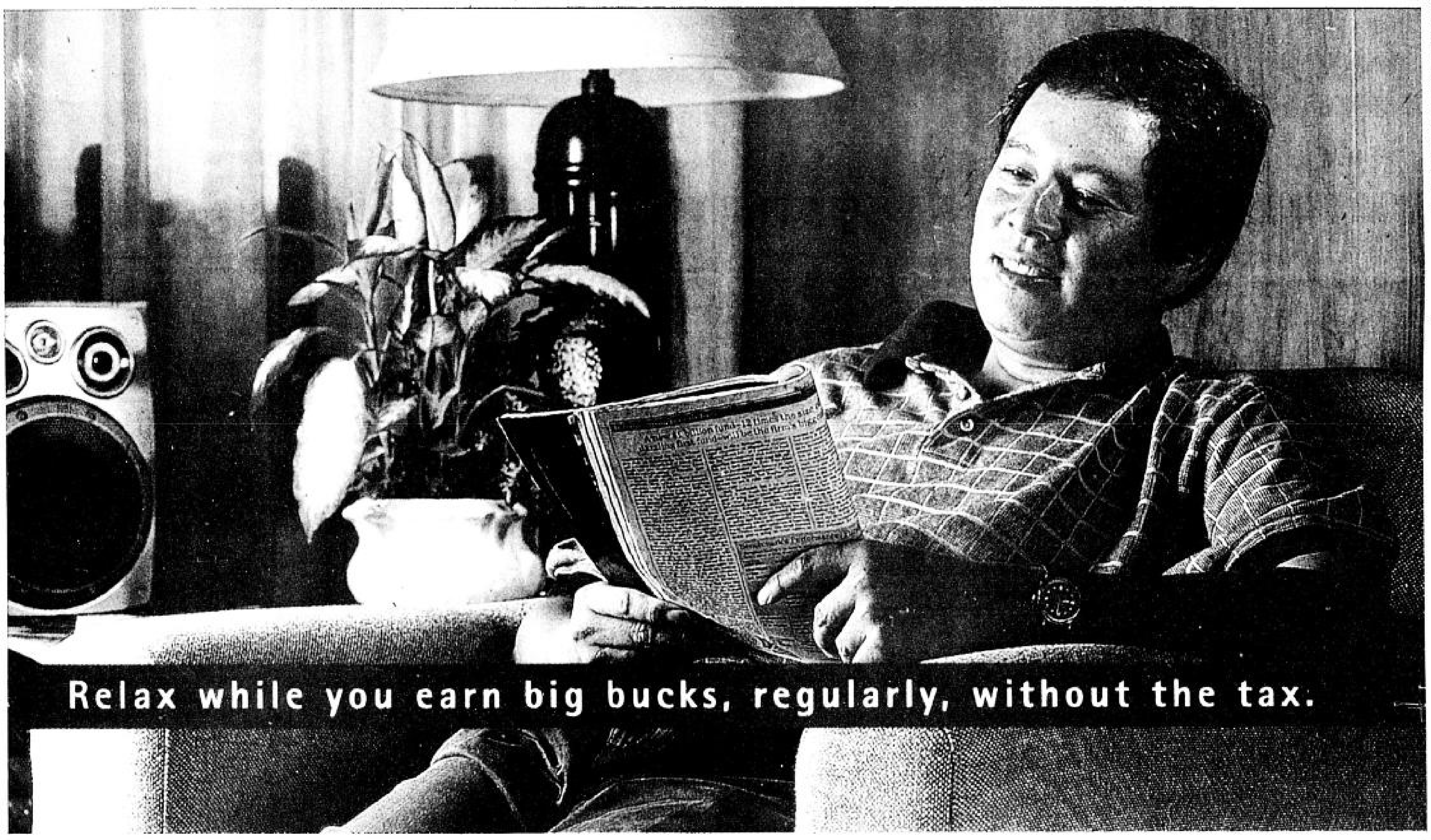
The guidelines can have important political implications for individual countries because they can single out national budgetary policies, increasing peer pressure on them to stick to requirements.

For example, in an unprecedented move earlier this year, EU countries reprimanded Ireland for failing to use tax rises and spending cuts to reduce the threat of the economy overheating.

Later this year, an economic policy guidelines-related confrontation involving Germany and Italy is conceivable.

A sharp slowdown in German economic growth could prevent the EU's largest economy from meeting its target of a 2001 public-sector deficit of 1.5 percent of gross domestic product, a target mentioned specifically in the guidelines.

A confrontation with Italy over the guidelines is also possible because of fears about a widening deficit under the new government of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi. *AP*



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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Esteban M. Portacio Sr. & Concordia P. Portacio has been extrajudicially settled among their heirs as per Doc. 120, Page 24, Book 1, Series of 2000 before Notary Public Arnulfo Canivel at Pasay City
(PDI- June 11,18, & 25 2001)

INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Sign of silence

Q. Why do we place just the index finger in front of the mouth to mean that we seek silence? Why not cover the entire mouth with all five fingers?

A. Although it has long been the universally accepted gesture to invite silence, the sign is actually based on an early misinterpretation. The gesture dates to the ancient Egyptians' worship of the child-god Horus, son of goddess Isis. Traditionally, he was depicted as an infant who, very humanly, was sucking his finger. The Greeks did not recognize the portrayal for what it was, but mistook the simple childish habit as a divine indication of silence. Subsequently, their error, undetected, was adopted throughout Europe, later on to be rationalized as a symbolic sealing of one's lips.

For the Record. The high-five gesture was first seen in basketball, originated by the University of Louisville team in the 1979-1980 US NCAA season. To celebrate an outstanding performance, the players (two at a time) would slap their right hands together high over their heads. One of them, Derek Smith, is credited with having coined the term. Soon thereafter, it became widely used in baseball, especially to welcome a player to the plate after a home run, and eventually in most other sports.

Classified Odd. While touring Germany with the famous Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, legendary American markswoman Annie Oakley was challenged by Crown Prince William to shoot off the end of the cigarette held between his lips. Not wanting to shoot too close to the royal face, Annie obliged by just shooting away the ash, leaving the cigarette still alight. She did this from a standing position at a distance of 100 feet.

WORD WATCH

Labi : Tagalog corruption of the Spanish *labio*, 'lip.'

PDI – June 18, 2001

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CONRADO L. ABAD

Peacefully joined our Creator
on June 17, 2001
at the age of 89.

His remains lie in state at
St. John the Baptist Church,
Pinaglabanan, San Juan.

Interment to be announced later.

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY REQUIEMS
FREE OBITUARY DESIGN

TERESITA LIM ANG

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
on June 16, 2001

Her bereaved sisters and brothers **Lydia** (†), **Jose** (†) and **Evangeline Aragon, Milda, Guia** and **Don Laurio** (†), **Montserrat,** and **Vicente**, nieces and nephews, and grandnieces and grandnephews request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque City.

A. Timothy Peterson

(January 21, 1940 - June 16, 2001)

It is with deep sorrow and profound hope that Tim's loving family:

his wife—**Patricia B. Licuanan**
children—**Carlo** and **Andrea**
brothers—**Anthony, Thomas** and **Jan, Fred** and **Mary**
mother-in-law—**Virginia Benitez Licuanan**
brother-in-law—**Francisco** and **Victoria Licuanan**
nieces and nephews, cousins and cousins-in-law

announces his passing. He lies at the Santa Maria dela Strada Parish Church on Katipunan Road, Quezon City. His funeral will be on Thursday, June 21, 2001 at Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

We ask you to remember Tim with affection and to pray for the eternal rest of this good man.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones the following establishments can help you.

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MACAIROG "IROG" DE GUIA

of Pandacan, Manila

Peacefully joined our Lord
on June 15, 2001 at the age of 78.

His bereaved wife Chitang; children Jasmin and Rudy, Lito and Anita, Perla and Cirilo, Aderito and Josie, Willy and Nene, Monching, Dulce and Jerry; grandchildren Elan and Sonny, Mariel, Michael and Marvin, Meg and Ali, Nico, Joan, Jeff and JonJon, Jillian, Jessica and Jonathan; great grandchild Cheska; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at his residence at 2523 Sto. Niño Street, Pandacan, Manila.

Interment will be on Tuesday, June 19, 2001 at South Cemetery after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at Sto. Niño Parish Church, Pandacan, Manila.

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All corporations registered with the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), with extensive experience in the supply and delivery of chairs for office buildings, are invited to apply for pre-qualification, and bidding for Contract Package Nos. 12 & 12-A Supply and Delivery of Chairs (around 1,500 pieces) for the new LBP Headquarters Building in Malate, Manila with the following schedule.

Issuance of Pre-Qualification Form	Pre-Qualification Conference	Issuance of Notices of Pre-qualification/ Pre-disqualification after	Dates of Issuance of Notices of Pre-qualification/ Pre-disqualification	Issuance of Bid Documents	Pre-Bid Conference	Bidding Date
June 18 to 22 2001 @ 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	June 26, 2001 @ 10:00 AM	a. Evaluation of Pre-qualification Documents and Brochures	July 13, 2001	August 7 2001 @ 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	August 10 2001 @ 10:00 AM	August 17, 2001 @ 10:00 AM
		b. Evaluation of Displays versus Brochures	July 27, 2001			
		c. Selection of top choices from the displays by Sub-Committee and Special Committee	August 6, 2001			

All interested Suppliers may obtain the Pre-qualification forms from the LBP Ad Hoc Group Office, c/o Project Management and Engineering Department (PMED), 2F LBP Building III, 315 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City upon payment of a non-refundable processing fee of P1,400.00 for the new suppliers (those who did not secure the pre-qualification documents during the first, second and third invitations), and P700.00 for those who have secured/submitted pre-qualification documents during the first, second and third invitations. Only those suppliers who secured the pre-qualification documents shall be eligible to participate in the pre-qualification process.

After the pre-qualification conference, Suppliers shall be given three (3) calendar-days to signify in writing their interest to join the pre-qualification process by accomplishing the proforma Letter of Intent (LOI) included in the pre-qualification forms issued earlier. Attendance to the pre-qualification conference is among the requirements for pre-qualification.

Duly accomplished Pre-qualification Forms shall be submitted to and received at the above-stated office not later than July 3, 2001, 3:00 PM, after which no documents will be accepted. All participating suppliers shall be notified in writing of the results of the pre-qualification.

Only pre-qualified suppliers may secure Bid Documents at the above-stated office/date upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00.

Pre-Qualification and Pre-Bid Conferences will be held on the above-stated date and time at the FMGSG Conference Room, 2F, LBP Building III, 315 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

Bidding shall be conducted using the two (2) envelope system (envelopes "A" and "B") to be submitted to and received not later than 10:00 AM on August 17, 2001 (the Bidding Date). Bidding shall be held at the FMGSG Conference Room, 2F, LBP Building III, 315 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

LBP reserves the right to change the date of issuance of bid documents, pre-bid conference and bidding date. Due notice of changes shall however be communicated by LBP to pre-qualified bidders.

LBP likewise reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense/loss that they may incur during the preparation of their bids, and to accept the bid that is most advantageous to the Bank.

(Sgd.) GILDA E. PICO
Chairman
Sub-Committee for LBP HQ Building Project

(PDI – June 16, 17 & 18, 2001)

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ABSORBENT COTTON WOOL MANUFACTURING MACHINERY - (2) TA-YOU Type TYF 6060; (3) GERMAN CARDING Machines; FLEISSNER Dryer; Stainless Steel Bleaching Equipment, incl. Stainless Steel Tanks, Valves, Pumps, etc.; KIER Section incl. Stainless Steel Tanks, Pipes, etc.; (3) Stainless Steel Hydroextractors; Stainless Steel Autoclave, etc.
MISCELLANEOUS & SCRAPS - Asstd. Large Cap. Valves; Asstd. Copper/Chrome/Engraved/Rubber Coated Rolls; SHINKO Speed Reducers; Asstd. Chain Blocks to 10 Ton Cap.; Stainless Steel Shafting; Asstd. Electric Motors; Filter System; Winch Assemblies; Stainless Steel Pipe; Pipe Connectors; STUART TURNER HAYWARD Large Cap. Pump; SYLVANIA Transformer; Motorized Stainless Steel High Pressure Valve; Asstd. CARDING Machine Assemblies; Fabricated Roll Rack; Stainless Steel Storage Bins; Stainless Steel Sorting Tables, etc.

AT: Kimberly-Clark - United San Pedro Subd., San Pedro, Laguna
ON: Tuesday, 19th June 2001 at 10:30am
ON VIEW: Monday, 18 June 2001, 9:00am - 5:00pm
REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT: Php10,000 (Upon Registration)

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Industrial Auctioneers & Valuers

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DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

Cabanatuan Branch, Cabanatuan City

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on 22 June 2001 at 10:30 a.m. at the DBP Cabanatuan Branch, Cabanatuan City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
Dama de Noche St. Tres Hermana Subd., (Phase-2), Antipolo, Rizal	183 sq.m., residential land (TCT No. T-385815) with one-storey building and fence enclosure.	P 1,173,900.00
Kalikid Sur, Cabanatuan City	18,630 sq.m. agri/residential land (TCT No. T-88497) with bungalow type residence, one storey store/ bodega building and fence.	P2,119,400.00

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK, THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers: 818-95-11 loc. 1401
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(PDI – June 17 & 18, 2001)

SM RENATO G. BERNARDO

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS
DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue
Pasig City, Philippines

PHILIPPINES 2000
Sama-Sama sa DECS

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) through the National Educational Testing and Research Center (NETRC) is inviting all interested parties for the Printing of Scannable Answer Sheets/Certificates of Rating/Non Classified Materials and Computerization for the Year 2001-2002 NEAT, NSAT, PEPT AND ALPES Projects.

All interested parties must submit a Letter of Intent before obtaining bid documents starting June 15 to 25, 2001 at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm 112 A. Mabini Bldg., ULTRA Complex, Pasig City.

A pre-bid conference will be held on June 25, 2001, 2:00 PM at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. I, ULTRA Complex, Pasig City. The submission and opening of bids will be on July 3, 2001 at the same time and place mentioned above.

DECS-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids.

(Sgd.) ERNESTO S. PANGAN
Undersecretary
Chairman, DECS-BAC

(PDI--June 17, 18, & 19, 2001)

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Shell to intensify Philippine projects

THE LARGEST company in the Netherlands, oil multinational Shell which has been a long-time investor in the Philippines, has pledged to expand its operations in the Philippines with the improving economic climate under the new government.

This was announced by Special Presidential Envoy for Europe Cesar Bautista who called on Shell's top officials in Amsterdam, bringing with him the good news about new opportunities in the Philippines under the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, whose pro-business stance bodes well for the resumption of major investment projects.

Responding to Ambassador Bautista's presentation, Shell's managing director Harry J.M. Roels said his company has decided to expand its photovoltaic solar station projects which will energize the rural areas of the Philippines.

Ambassador Bautista also met with executives of Unilever, whose board members Alexander Kemner and Andre van Heemstra expressed confidence in President Macapagal-Arroyo's brand of leadership. Proof of this, they said, was Unilever's recent expansion in the Philippines with its ice cream and Best Foods acquisition. They also committed the company to playing an active role in the rehabilitation of the Pasig River.

ING and ABN Amro, two of Europe's largest financial institutions, also expressed full support for the economic renewal of the Philippines. ING board member Fred Hubbell discussed with Bautista his company's plans of expanding their insurance business in the Philippines as the country regains economic integrity with the President's clear-cut policies and commitment to a level playing field. On the other hand, Sergio Lires Rial of ABN Amro's managing board pledged to support the campaign to spread the word about the improved investment climate in the Philippines to the business community in the Netherlands and in Europe.

SKY FOUNDATION, INC.
&
INSULAR LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY LTD.
MOA SIGNING
"Sponsor a School Program"

INSULAR LIFE SPONSORS CABLE EDUCATION
Sky Foundation Inc. (SFI) executive director Rina Lopez-Bautista (second from right) recently signed a memorandum of agreement with Insular Life Assurance Company Ltd. (Ilac) board chair and president Vicente Ayllon (second from left) for the cabling of Itaas Elementary School in Muntinlupa City, under SFI's "Sponsor-a-School" program. The school will be given free access to Knowledge Channel, the country's first all-educational channel that features curriculum-based programs shown on cable TV. SFI plans to provide free cable subscriptions to all public schools nationwide so that Knowledge Channel will become part of the students' regular classroom activities. Also present during the signing are SFI Resource Development director Carla Villanueva (left) and Ilac senior vice president and executive assistant to the president Maria Antonia Lim.

'HONG KONG TURKEYS'
All geared up for their game in the Pangaea Cup 8th International Slo-Pitch Softball Tournament, the "Hong Kong Turkeys" assemble at the lobby of Hyatt Regency Manila where they were billeted during the competition. The team is composed of high-level executives from multinational companies based in Hong Kong. They join 18 other participants from various countries, including the Philippines, which was represented by its own contingent for the first time. The Pangaea Cup is held every few months in key cities of Asia. Also shown are Hyatt Regency Manila's business development manager Livia Guzman (left) and communications manager Genny Puno.'

JVL CONTRACT WITH CHUNLAN
JVL International Industries Corp., the newest home appliance and motorcycle distributor in the market, recently signed a contract with Ocean Harvest Development Ltd., part of the Chunlan Group Corporation, to be the exclusive distributor of Chunlan products in the Philippines. Present during the contract signing were (from left, seated) Gui Xiang, deputy manager of Ocean Harvest and Alfredo V. Lagman Jr., president and CEO of JVL International. Witnessing the signing were Andrew Wong of the export department of Ocean Harvest, Colin Cheong Tin-Ming, senior manager of Ocean Harvest, Irwin Rene de Dios, VP for sales and marketing of JVL International and Steve Peña Sy, managing director of Al Financial Services Ltd.

One Labor of Love

THAI AIRWAYS JOINS HABITAT BUILD
Thai Airways International (Thai) recently became the first international airline to build Habitat homes in the country. The weeklong activity was a concerted effort among the Thai staff joined in by their loyal travel agents and cargo agents in line with its commitment to make a difference in society. With Habitat for Humanity Philippines president Erlinda de Guzman (seventh from left) are the airline's staff led by country manager Sakchai Srongprapa (standing, center), account manager Celia Atendido (fourth from right), sales manager Emily Martinez (fifth from right) and cargo manager Bok Muñoz (third from left).) The group, joined by happy recipient-homeowners Ophelia and Sandy Jacob (kneeling), stand in front of the house they helped build in the Habitat Village in Baras, Rizal.

Microsoft adds five to its CLC list

AFTER posting a groundbreaking pilot year in linking three underprivileged schools to cyberspace, Microsoft Philippines, through the Connected Learning Community (CLC) program, makes true its promise of connecting more schools to the IT world notwithstanding geographical, physical, and social barriers.

Bicol University Polangui Campus in Polangui, Albay, Mountain Province Comprehensive National High School in Bontoc, San Policarpio National High School in San Policarpio, Calbayog, Samar, Libertad National High School in Libertad, Misamis Oriental, and Parada National High School in Parada, Valenzuela, have recently pole-vaulted into the dynamic world of the Internet. The teachers and students of these schools, though comparatively poor, have shown commitment to the success of the program, making them potent beneficiaries of the CLC.

The CLC program aims to provide students and teachers of indigent schools across the country with much-needed educational tools and equipment to facilitate learning and interconnectivity through extensive hands-on training on Microsoft applications and the Internet. The CLC package includes eight units of networked PCs, a colored inkjet printer, a scanner, a digital camera, educational software and one year free unlimited access to the Internet.

Aside from the donation, Microsoft certified solutions provider Bitstop Inc. also trained teachers on using Windows, office applications suite, and the Encarta multimedia encyclopedia.

"The Connected Learning Community is one of the projects we hold closest to our hearts. More than providing the students and teachers of CLC schools with top-of-the-line computer hardware and software, we make sure to arm them with the much-needed computing skill that will help make them pivotal movers of the new knowledge economy," says Microsoft Philippines managing director Richard Francis.

Microsoft hopes to expand the CLC and extend the clout of the program by adding more schools each year.

The CLC program is made possible through the Microsoft Foundation Campaign, part of a global initiative that sees Microsoft Corporation donating proceeds of antipiracy activities and settlements back into local community organizations in need of technological assistance.

Clips

PMA marketing communications seminar

THE PHILIPPINE Marketing Association (PMA) will hold a lecture series entitled "Communicating with your Customer" on June 19, 20 and 22 at the Acceed, Asian Institute of Management (AIM), Makati City. The seminar will tackle various topics, from creative and media planning for an advertising campaign to developing effective sales promotion and public relations strategies and integrated marketing communications activities. PMA has invited a lineup of distinguished resource speakers to facilitate the lectures and open forums. Registrations are ongoing. For more information call the PMA Secretariat at 893-7127, 813-0466, 8923144 and 892-3261 (telefax) or log on to pma@philonline.com.

Entrepreneurial skills at marketing seminar

IMPROVING sales, market shares and profits for this year will be the focus of the 39th marketing strategy and plans workshop of Mansmith and Fielders Inc. June 19 to 21 at the Manila Galleria Suites. Principal lecturer for the three-day seminar will be former Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) national president and Agora awardee Josiah Go. Interested parties may call 723-6671, 416-4662 or 7277142, email at mansmith@i-manila.com.ph or visit www.mansmith.net.

First Invitational Golf Tournament

ON Tuesday, June 19, at the Ayala Alabang Country Club, Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City, the first New Beginnings Invitational Golf Tournament will be held. The fundraising activity aims to sustain efforts to help a greater number of people grappling with substance abuse. New Beginnings Foundation sprung from the personal desire of Iñigo Zobel, Jaime del Rosario, Josine Elizalde, Gina Godinez and Dr. Edgar Laurena to reach out and help improve lives affected or hampered by substance abuse. Tournament winners get Baccarat trophies by Deco Centrum, the event's co-organizer. New Beginnings may be reached at 809-4578.

BIO-Search 2001 staged

THE CENTER for International Trade Exposition and Missions (Citem), the export promotions agency of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), will stage BIO-Search 2001 on June 21-24 at the Philippine Trade Training Center, Roxas Boulevard corner Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Pasay City. BIO-Search, the first in the Philippines and in Asia, is a trade exhibition that promotes healthier living through the use of natural, organic, and herbal products as well as alternative healthcare and environment-friendly technologies. The four-day event is open to the public. For more information call Citem at 831-2483 / 832-2201 local 214 / 228 or visit the BIO-Search website at www.citem.gov.ph/~biosearch.

Managing restos, canteens

Restaurateurs, hoteliers, resort and canteen operators and those planning to open their own foodservice business now have a chance to hone their skills when ProActive Center for Training holds its Managing a Restaurant/Canteen Seminar-Workshop on June 18 to 26 at Encore! Encore!, second floor of Building A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City from 1 to 5 p.m. Reservations are being accepted at 823-4947; cel 0919-5500601 or at email pactserv@info.com.ph. Visit PACT's website at www.info.com.ph/~pactserv.

Samsonite luggage free with your Citibank account

OPEN a Citibank relationship today and bring home Samsonite luggage sets for free. Until June 30, new Citibank depositors will receive exclusive gifts of Samsonite's Airstop travel bags, its new premium line that has yet to be introduced in the Philippines.

Stop by at any of Citibank's six branches: Makati, Alabang, Greenhills, Binondo, Eastwood City, Libis and Cebu, and inquire about the "Summer in Style" promotion. For an initial P1 million or US$25,000 deposit, Citibank clients will receive a Samsonite Airstop two-piece set including a duffel bag and a toiletry kit. Opening a CitiGold relationship with an initial minimum deposit of P4 million or $100,000 will entitle clients to a Samsonite Airstop four-piece set including a single frame upright luggage, shoulder bag, beauty case and deluxe waist wallet. For more information, call 995-9999 for Metro Manila or 234-9999 for Metro Cebu.

NTERCONNECTION
MARCH 13, 2001

SMART, NEXTEL INTERCONNECTION
Smart Communications and Nextel Communications Philippines Inc. recently entered into an agreement to open interconnection between the two companies' networks. This agreement enables subscribers of Smart to make outgoing and receive incoming calls from a Nextel subscriber on his Smart cellphone, and vice versa. Signing the agreement are lawyer Rogelio V. Quevedo (left), Smart's head for legal department and Emilio P. Festejo, president of Nextel Communications Philippines Inc.

QUALITY ASSURANCE MONITORING VISIT
Professor Cheng Tee Hiang (fourth from left) of Nanyang Technological University, the Cisco Academy Training Center based in Singapore, was guest of Meralco Foundation Inc. (MFI) recently to check on the quality of operations of the Cisco Networking Academy Program at the various regional academies in Metro Manila. He was met by MFI president Col. Alex T. Escaño. At left is MFI scholar Allan Enriquez with (from left) IT instructors Ofelia Galvez and Ronald Capacia, MFI Institute assistant head Manolo Santos, Cisco Systems Philippines' Cisco Networking Academy program manager Cristina de Jesus, MFI IT head Jojo Baldeo, and MFI instructors for the Cisco Networking Program Josephine Fulgencio and Evangeline Dalindin.

SUBSTATION PROJECT
The rural electrification program of the Zamboanga del Sur 1 Electric Cooperative (Zamsureco-1) is in full-swing with the appointment of MCA Power Corporation to supply, deliver, install, test and commission on a turnkey basis a 5-MVA substation project. Scheduled for completion this July, the substation will improve the cooperative's service delivery in Mahayag, Zamboanga del Sur. MCA Power and Zamsureco-1 officials pose after the formal signing of the agreement held in Pagadian City. The signing is witnessed by electrical contractor/builder Kilovolt Services. Shown from left are Camila T. Diaz, VP/board member of Zamsureco-1; Susan Austero, branch manager of MCA Power, Juanito G. Ramos Jr., VP/COO of MCA Power; Decca O. Judilla (seated), GM of Zamsureco-1; Benjamin A. Arboso, GM of Kilovolt; Rodrigo L. Idnay of Kilovolt; Zamsureco-1 director Prudencio B. Omay; and Regino Ruben A. Madarang, sales manager of Kilovolt.

Training meet for Asean teachers

THE SIX member-nations of the Asean, namely Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam, Indonesia and the Philippines, will participate in a training program entitled "Teacher Training: Integrating IT in the Classroom." The training program is a component of the Asean Center of Excellence (COE) Comprehensive Program being implemented by the Association for Overseas Technical Scholarships (AOTS), and funded by the Ministry of Economic Trade and Industry of Japan. The COE program is aimed at improving Asean competitiveness by developing well-trained workers with relevant skills, and knowledge of and access to information technology. The ten-day training program will run on June 19 to 28 to be participated in by 30 teachers from the six member-countries of the Asean. Opening ceremonies will be at 8 a.m. on June 19 at the Meralco Foundation Institute Building on Ortigas Avenue, Pasig.

Procter & Gamble says restructuring to cost $1.2B

CINCINNATI—Procter & Gamble Co. expects to meet its operating earnings targets for this quarter and fiscal 2001 but plans to take a one-time charge of $1.2 billion for restructuring expenses, the company's chief executive said Friday.

The charge reflects expenses for previously disclosed work force reductions and getting rid of underperforming businesses and will reduce P&G's reported earnings for the fourth quarter, which ends June 30, said A.G. Lafley, president and chief executive.

Lafley told industry analysts in New York that P&G is working to build sales of its biggest brands as it remakes itself after a volatile year in 2000.

"We must put tough issues behind us," he said. "We are not going to be as patient as we have been in the past. We simply must focus our people and capital where they can generate the greatest returns for shareholders."

Lafley said P&G expected to meet projections this quarter. Its operating profits are expected to increase in the mid-single digits, and sales should grow in the low single digits, excluding the impact of currency exchange rates, he said.

For the fiscal year that ends June 30, sales excluding foreign exchange impact should show an increase in the low single digits, with core earnings per share in line with current estimates.

Analysts surveyed by Thomson Financial/First Call expect Procter & Gamble to earn 59 cents a share in the fourth quarter and $3.11 a share for the year.

"Job one was to get P&G's business growing again, and we're doing that," Lafley said. "We will end the year with three consecutive quarters of core earnings and earnings per share growth."

P&G, whose products include Tide detergent, Crest toothpaste and Pampers diapers, got into trouble with Wall Street early in 2000 when the company backed off its earlier earnings projections. The company then ousted chief executive Durk Jager and promoted Lafley.

During the past year, P&G created a new business with Coca Cola Co. to make and sell snacks and juice beverages, bought the Clairol product line, and pledged to sell or swap the Jif peanut butter and Crisco shortening brands.

For fiscal 2002, P&G expects core earnings per share to increase at a rate that exceeds this fiscal year's growth but not at a target of double-digit earnings growth. Sales in fiscal 2002—excluding foreign exchange impact—should increase at a rate faster than that of the current year but not yet at the company's ultimate growth of 4 percent to 6 percent, Lafley said. *AP*

Nortel forecasts $19.2-B Q2 loss as woes continue

TORONTO—Canadian telecom giant Nortel Networks on Friday announced it will have a record loss of $19.2 billion in the second quarter and must cut an additional 10,000 jobs, stinging techwary investors and shaking markets worldwide.

The Brampton, Ontario-based firm said it expects a second-quarter loss of $19.2 billion from operations and the impact of its ongoing restructuring. Market watchers are calling it corporate Canada's largest quarterly loss.

Excluding the restructuring charges, Nortel forecasts a net loss of $1.5 billion—or 48 cents per share—and revenues of $4.5 billion in the quarter.

The new job cuts come on top of the 20,000 announced earlier this year and will reduce its worldwide workforce to some 64,000 people.

"Led by the United States, the global telecom industry is undergoing a significant adjustment," said Nortel president and CEO John Roth.

Approximately 65 percent of Nortel's business comes from the United States.

"We are seeing a very significant reduction in equipment purchases in the second quarter of 2001 compared to the first quarter of 2001 and the second quarter of 2000," Roth said in a statement issued before North American markets opened.

The news sent Nortel shares on the New York Stock Exchange down sharply, dropping about 15 percent to $8.92 in the opening minutes of trading Friday, but the stock managed to regain some ground and closed at $9.86, or a 7-percent drop.

In Toronto, Nortel shares, which had been trading near two-year lows on the Toronto Stock Exchange, also plunged early on, but traders reversed course and started buying the stock in the late afternoon.

Nortel closed at $15.17 ($10.01), falling about 6.5 percent.

The TSE, where Nortel had had a weighting of 21 percent in January that has dropped to 7 percent this month, got hammered by the news, slipping 103.97—or 1.31 percent—to 7,816.08. *AFP*

China rethinks Internet policy

BEIJING—America Online Inc. has given Chinese leaders a $100-million reason to rethink their opposition to letting foreigners own a stake in the country's floundering Internet industry.

Times are so bleak for China's Internet companies that they took AOL's announcement this week of a venture with the biggest Chinese maker of personal computers not as a competitive threat, but as a vote of faith in their future.

It didn't seem to matter that AOL's $100-million investment doesn't actually buy it a place in China's Internet. Or that there's no firm date for any foreigners to be allowed in.

"It's a positive sign for the industry, for AOL to be endorsing getting into the China market," said Daniel Mao, CEO of Sina.com, one of China's biggest Internet companies.

AOL, a unit of AOL Time Warner, said its Hong Kong-registered venture with Legend Holdings Ltd. would aim at replicating its Internet service in China. For now, though, its involvement will be limited to providing consulting to Legend's Internet portal, fm365.com.

AOL will hold 49 percent of the venture with Legend, which will match AOL's investment but hold 51 percent.

Chinese dotcoms are eager for outside help. They suffer from the industry-wide problems of feeble revenues and stock prices. Companies are laying off staff and dismissing executives.

"At this point, things aren't going to get any better in the next 24 months, not in an advertising-based market," said Steven Schwankert, senior editor of Internet World Magazine (Asia), based in Hong Kong.

Regulators at first tolerated efforts by foreign Internet firms seeking a toehold in China, but then shut them out by declaring that a ban on foreign investment in telecommunications applied to the Internet.

China has promised to let foreigners own up to 50 percent of Internet firms and other service ventures after it joins the World Trade Organization.

The country has just one authorized foreign Internet investment—a minority stake in a Shanghai venture. AT&T Corp. will work with two state-owned Chinese partners to provide broadband Internet service to Shanghai's new Pudong business district in a $25-million venture announced in December.

The Ministry of Information Industry, which regulates the Internet and fought to keep foreigners out, apparently isn't being swayed by the interest displayed by AOL and the prospect of badly needed money from abroad. It will stick with its ban on foreign ownership until China joins the WTO, the ministry said.

"Any plans to do so beforehand will break the government's promise," said ministry spokesperson Wang Lijian. *AP*

Tribune discloses job cuts, buyouts

CHICAGO—Tribune Co. said Thursday it would reduce its workforce by about 6 percent through job cuts and buyouts because of an advertising slump that sent revenues reeling at Tribune and other media companies.

The announcement, involving more than 1,500 jobs, came as the newspaper publisher and television broadcaster warned that its earnings would fall short of expectations in the current quarter.

A voluntary retirement program announced to employees Thursday was expected to reduce the company's workforce of slightly more than 26,000 employees by 3 percent, or more than 750 people. Another 3 percent would be cut through job elimination and reorganizations, said Tribune spokesperson Gary Weitman.

Most of the cuts would be in the publishing group, where revenues plunged 11 percent last month compared with May 2000 to $303 million from $342 million. That group included Times Mirror, the Los Angeles Times publisher that it acquired last year, and the Chicago Tribune among its 11 newspapers.

Overall, Tribune revenues have slid 6 percent to $2.1 billion so far this year. The revenue comparisons reflect pro forma numbers, meaning they assume that the Times Mirror acquisition occurred at the beginning of last year.

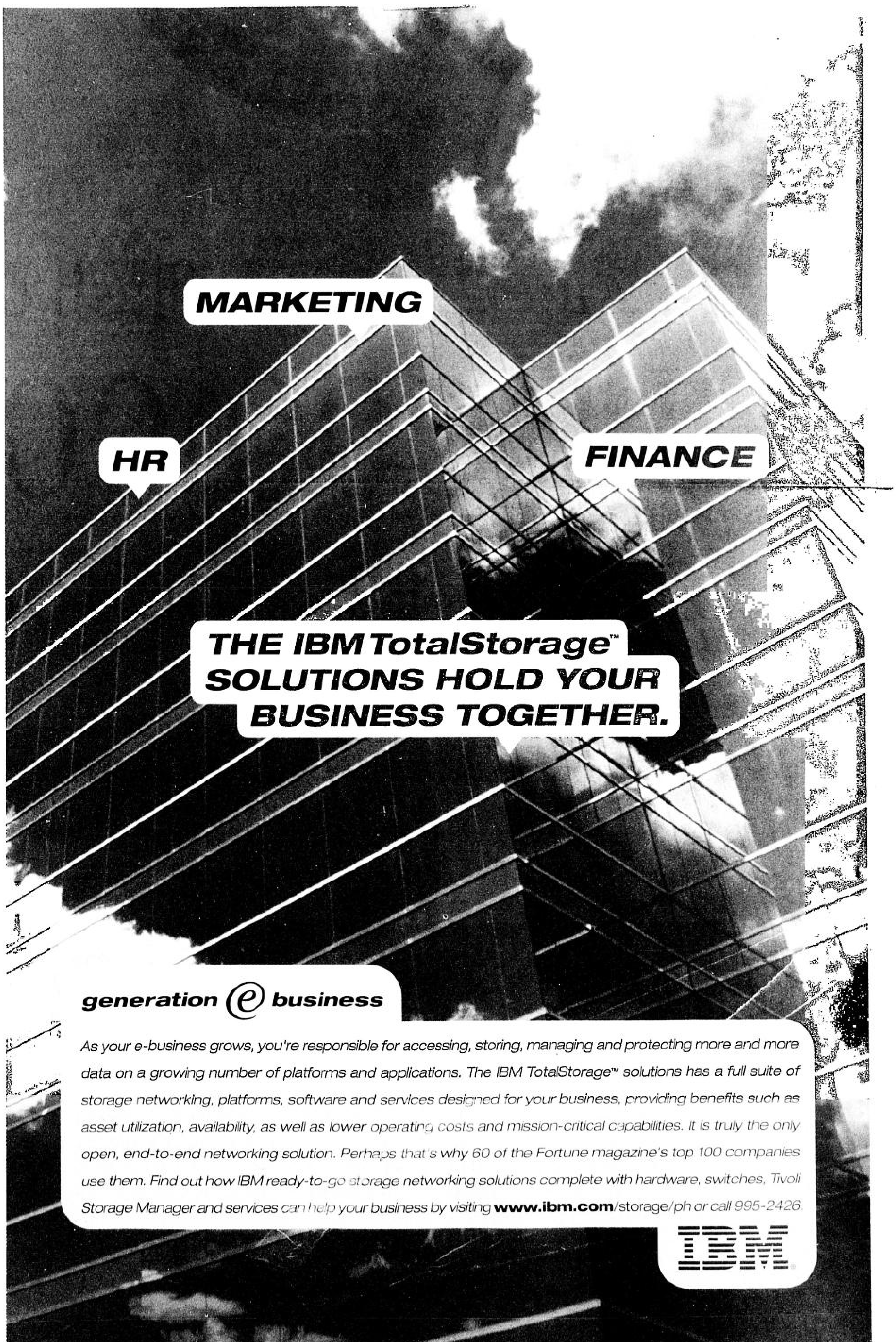
The weakened economy and soft advertising demand have hit media and publishing companies hard, forcing some to institute buyout packages.

Knight Ridder, the United States' second biggest newspaper publisher, has been laying off staff as part of a cost-cutting drive to deal with the ad revenue shortfall. The company announced in April that it would cut jobs at most of its 32 newspapers.

Tribune said total advertising inches decreased 5 percent in May and 4 percent so far this year, while revenues from its broadcasting and entertainment group for May fell 8 percent to $125 million.

The company lowered its earnings guidance for the second quarter to 22 cents a share. Analysts surveyed by First Call/Thomson Financial had estimated they would be 28 cents a share.

Including reductions that have already taken place, Tribune by year's end, will have reduced its staff by 10 percent, or more than 2,000 since the merger with Times Mirror last June. *AP*



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Firm posts best years at height of crisis

By Amelita R. Remo

WHAT began as a group of banana plantations that sold fruit at the farm gate then packed off to multinational brands Del Monte and Chiquita is now a fresh produce marketing company that does everything from producing the seeds to bringing the finished products to the supermarket shelves.

Luis P. Lorenzo Jr., chair and CEO of Lapanday Holdings Corp., says the group was able to grow despite the many challenges thrown along its way by focusing all its efforts on the vision of being a globally competitive agriculture-based company.

Lapanday, a fresh produce company based in Mindanao, principally into bananas, has grown its revenues to $176 million from $50 million in four years.

Within four years, Lapanday was forced to realign its business for global competitive agribusiness due to the Asian financial crisis of 1997.

Lapanday refocused most of its interests, shed off non-core assets, paid its debt and invested in core business technologies to make it more globally competitive.

The group now supplies bananas to all major produce markets in the world although it is still prevented from exporting to the US, Taiwan, Australia and Europe due to phyto-sanitary and non-tariff related barriers.

It has expanded from bananas to other tropical fruits in its distribution network and has also begun to source from Hawaii and Central America.

LORENZO says it pays to stick to the vision of being a globally competitive agriculture firm.

Within these four years, Lapanday has aimed to benchmark against the best in terms of price, quality, reliability, customer service and flexibility. Its work ethic is legendary in Mindanao with its 24/7 and 365-day-a-year work disposition.

In line with working to be the best, Lapanday views corporate social responsibility and labor management councils or LMCs as investments. They have organized effective labor-management councils to take care of the human resources and to provide a venue for cooperation.

This move enabled them to minimize costs associated with the historically volatile labor-management culture common in agriculture-based enterprises.

To keep up with the changing times, Lapanday also had to innovate and test technologies to improve its products and market the products they grow, source and sell. Most importantly, Lapanday had to move with urgency.

In terms of management, Lapanday is led by a management team, which competes directly with multinational companies. The team functions as a flat organization and performs duties in a non-hierarchical manner.

Lapanday believes that everyone, from managers to workers, plays an equally important role in the success of the company.

Lapanday considers these to be their edge: they have the passion to learn, to train their people to think outside the box and to re-train and expose them to current technologies, while searching for what is commercially applicable.

Lessons learned

Lorenzo relates, "Our business learning curve has sometimes been costly, especially in China but we have learned our lessons and profited from our mistakes." Lapanday has since expanded its product lines beyond bananas to piggyback on cold chain logistics and distribution system.

Experience taught Lapanday two important things. First, globally competitive agriculture could serve as a reliable source of export earnings, employment and increased incomes and second, the global market could serve as a prism for analyzing and improving their work, skills and products.

This means the willingness to sacrifice traditional business interests and learn the art of focusing their resources and efforts toward distinctive competencies, as well as to take risks and adopt new technologies in order to respond favorably to market signals.

Unfortunately, the country's agricultural sector today remains largely local in orientation, supplying only consumers within the country, and thus has little incentive to be competitive. Furthermore, its farming practices are antiquated; its logistical arrangements are inefficient; and national policies are often geared toward merely improving consumption rather than the agricultural sector's competitiveness.

Action plan

Lapanday forged partnerships with farming contingents including independent growers. They invested a great deal in improving their skills and in developing a competitive shield that would strengthen their capacity to produce efficiently.

It is Lapanday's belief that growers and workers need to earn in much the same way as the company does. Their practical guidepost for doing business includes the belief that the lives of farmers and growers need to improve faster than the profit margins.

Transforming agriculture

Lapanday's task is to help organize the three main players in the agriculture business toward a single vision of modernization and global competitiveness.

First is the Progressive and Modernizing Commercial Farm Sector, which is composed of the corporate farms that have partnerships with small farmers and have an international market orientation.

These corporate farms supply higher value crops and products and have high growth contribution potential and can therefore usher in new technologies and offer subcontracting schemes to alleviate risks attributable to agriculture. They enable small farmers and traditional agribusiness to diversify from traditional crops and become competitive.

Another sector is composed of the small farmers and the rural enterprises. Lapanday discovered that what was effective is for them to help model farmers with an integrated system to include water, growing technology, market access, among others.

Once other farmers see that the model farmers have become more profitable, it wouldn't take long before they would want to do the same.

Lastly, the Traditional Corporate Farms and Agribusiness Enterprises are the ones that are focused and dependent on the local market, producing traditional crops and products. This group would attain a higher level of competitiveness if given access to financing and new technology in order to be more productive and profitable.

All sectors have to agree on the notion that only by modernizing agriculture can make the small farmers become viable and profitable.

Progressive corporate farms are in a position to assume the leading role as they are globally oriented and thus updated on market access and competitive technologies.

In short, they have the moral ascendancy to re-orient agriculture from a production-driven into a market-driven economic activity. Furthermore, corporate farms need to educate the sector into managing this production. Farmers should keep in mind that production should never be in equilibrium with the market demand.

The private sector on the other hand, have to endlessly recite the need for an outward-looking agriculture from research, harvesting, marketing to distribution not just on cost but also on consistent quality, supply reliability, expeditious customer service and commercially viable product innovation.

FIRM/ C3

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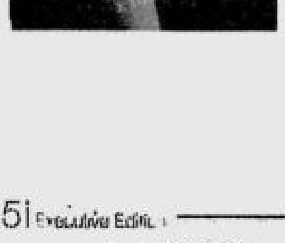

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Firm posts best years at height of crisis

(From page C1)

Lapanday also believes that building a sustainable and competitive agricultural system means upholding commitment to the environment. It entails not only corporate social responsibility but also responsiveness to the demand of the international markets.

For instance, developed countries require not only that produce conform to ISO and food safety standards but also production operations must be environment-friendly while labor conditions must guarantee fair compensation and prohibit child labor.

The challenge for the government is for them to be better informed, prepared, more focused, deliberate and strategically aligned with the industry or product sector that they are negotiating for. Accountabilities and milestones have to be clear and programs have to be executed with a greater sense of urgency.

However, the Philippine government is currently cash-strapped, highly centralized and deeply politicized. Thus, the private sector must be ready to assist in covering the government expenses for which resources are lacking.

All efforts must be synchronized in order to have a solid and unified Philippine panel that could effectively push the country's interests forward and thus reap positive results.

Primarily, the government needs to review certain issues such as the proposals on safety nets per sector as well as the national policies affecting agriculture. Another important issue to be tackled is the land reform program, which, while noble in its objectives of promoting social equity, has been a failure in terms of delivering the intended results of increased income for farmers and accelerated countryside development.

Second, government has to look at its regulatory policy on new technologies. We must keep in step with the changing trends that enhance product/service value, i.e., research, organics and packaging innovations.

Finally, the government has to build a program for rural-based microenterprises. The government has to continually try new schemes that create mechanisms for the small farmers to become globally integrated.

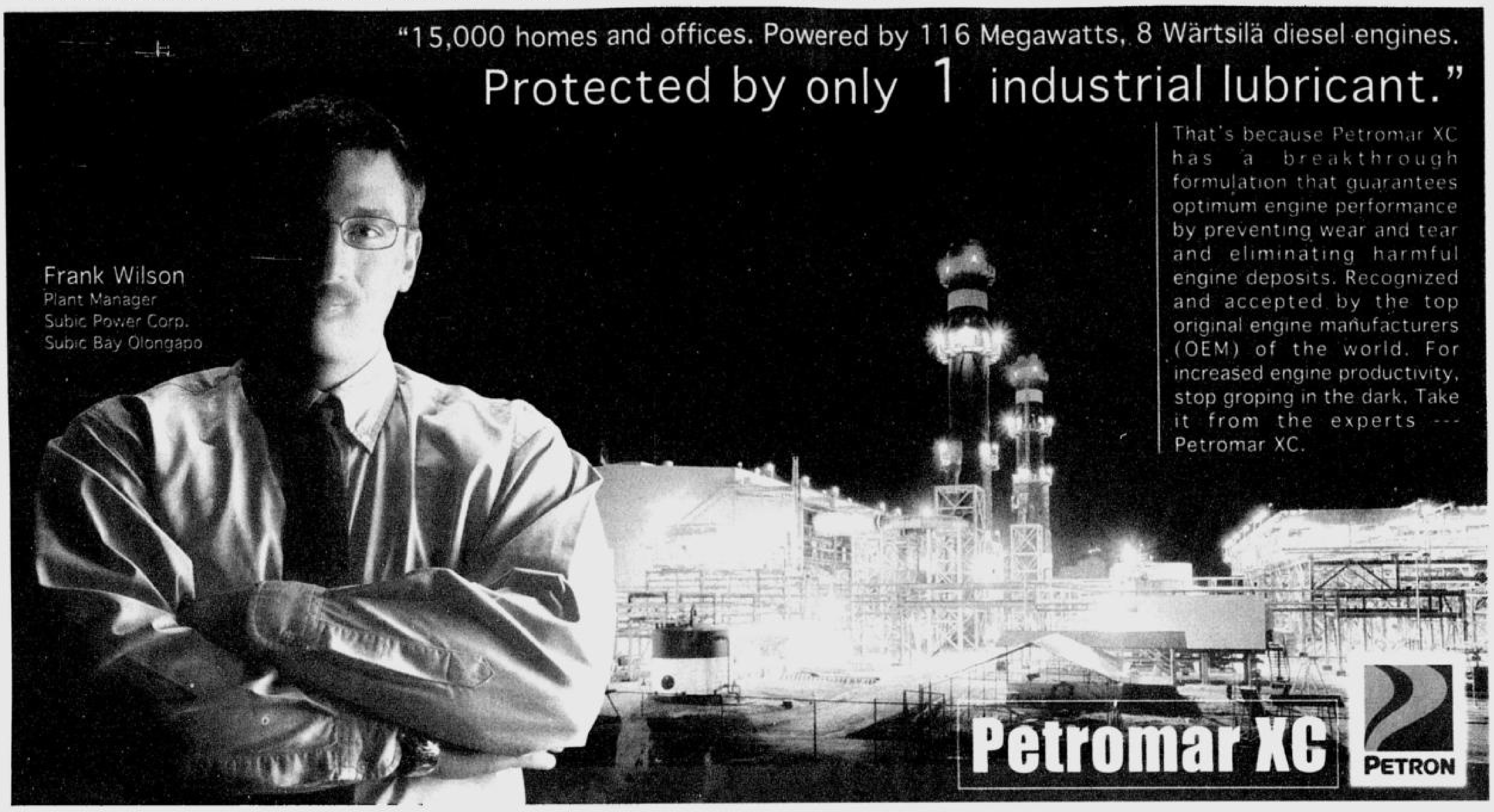
Solutions to Philippine economic development go beyond employing people in the Lapanday group, to reaching out and sharing what the company can so that its neighbors can also become better at what they do.

"Generally as CEOs, we do it to appease our conscience, make good corporate politics or create a situation so that our success does not unnecessarily draw attention to ourselves. In either case, we need to be part of that solution to defuse this ticking time bomb called poverty," Lorenzo says.

Although it is said that intellectuals and policy-makers analyze operations of business and its systems, it is the managers who build them. CEOs play an important role in transcending the reality of our society's limited capabilities and moving forward by treating them as challenges that the company must overcome.

"The task before us is to become not only managers and creators of wealth. We need to be educators too, bridging the gap between our vision and the familiar, between our future and our people's experiences," he adds.

(This article was based on a paper delivered by Luis P. Lorenzo Jr., entitled "Repositioning Philippine Agriculture for Global Competitiveness," during the recent forum sponsored by PricewaterhouseCoopers and Joaquin Cunanan & Co.)



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Hoping to be in business? Know whether you're up to it

IF YOU have a business idea tucked up somewhere but hesitate to take the entrepreneurial plunge, not knowing whether you're up to the challenge or not, it might help if you take this simple test:

Under each question, check the answer that most nearly expresses what you feel. Try to be as honest as you can.

Are you a self-starter?

a. I do things on my own. Nobody has to tell me to get going.

b. If someone gets me started, I keep going all right.

c. Easy does it. I don't put myself to too much trouble unless I really have to.

How do you feel about other people?

a. I like people. I can get along with just about anybody.

b. I have many friends; I don't need anyone else.

c. Most people irritate me.

Can you lead others?

a. I can get most people to go along when I start something.

b. I can give the orders if someone tells me what we should do.

c. I let someone else get things moving. Then I go along if I feel like it.

Can you take responsibility?

a. I like to take charge of things and see them through.

b. I'll take over if I have to, but rather let someone else be responsible.

c. There's always some overachiever around wanting to show how smart he is. I usually let him.

How good an organizer are you?

a. I like to have a plan before I start. I'm usually the one who get things organized when the group wants to do something.

b. I do all right unless things get too confused. Then I quit.

c. You get all set and then something comes along and presents too many problems. So I take things as they come.

How good a worker are you?

a. I can keep going as long as I need to. I don't mind working for something I want.

b. I'll work hard for a while, but when I have enough, that's it.

c. I can't see that hard work gets you anywhere.

HOPING/ C6

4 secrets to successful IT implementation

WITH all the hype given to Information Technology (IT) these days, there is growing interest and desire for companies to computerize their operations. Technology can be a great tool to improve business performance. But whether one's enterprise will benefit from the use of technology depends on many factors.

Having gone through this exercise with our company, Destileria Limtuaco & Co. Inc., I would like to share with you my four secrets to successful IT implementation.

I hope this will help you in your company's transformation and enable your enterprise enjoy the benefits that technology can offer in improving corporate performance.

Top management commitment. For IT projects, as in all major projects, everything starts from the top. It is always a top-to-bottom exercise. Hence, the organization's leader must first ask the question: "Do we really want IT for our organization?" If the answer is yes, you then proceed to determine what you really want out of IT.

It would be helpful to come up with a list of everything you want to automate. Driven by your company's vision, decide on the system you want to implement based on the priorities of your organization.

You then commit the resources for the project. An IT project, by any standards, is quite expensive. So you must commit to make resources available for this undertaking: financial resources, human resources as you may need additional people and existing employees, and top management must commit to give extra time and effort.

Lastly, you must brace yourself for change. Change is inevitable in such an endeavor. Changes will definitely be introduced and implemented in many aspects of the organization from policies, to processes and procedures, people and culture. So it is best to have an open mind, and condition everyone to be willing to change for the best.

Hire the best and people you can work well with. **Once your top management has made a decision and commitment, you then proceed to find the IT partners for this project, i.e., IT consultant/s, business applications software companies or software builders if you decide to build them yourself, systems integrators, hardware companies, Internet service providers, etc.**

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Olivia Limpe-Aw

Get the best IT partners. Of course, the "BEST" is quite subjective. What is important is to hire people who are technically competent and best suited for your project and organization.

Know the players in each field. Ask proponents to make presentations. Check out client references. Find out statistics of successful and failed projects and the reasons for the failures. Track record is a very important factor in deciding whom to get. Also, check their exposure to your particular industry as each industry will have its peculiarities and special requirements, and is crucial for highly specialized fields and industries.

Lastly, though seldom discussed and taken up in management, I would consider the personality and management style of your potential IT partners. You must choose people you will be able to get along with. There must be good chemistry. Even if the candidate is the best but your personalities clash or they do not understand your business philosophy and management style, these are potential risks that can cause your project to fail.

IT projects normally take from months to years to complete. With the amount of close interaction required for this type of project, your good working relationship and chemistry are very important.

Provide leadership and hands-on management. One cannot overstress the importance of leadership in driving the project and the hands-on management needed to see the project through in making an IT project successful. This is definitely the biggest success factor.

Normally, CEOs have gotten so used to delegation, especially with respect to IT. Oftentimes, we feel intimidated by technology. Hence, we try to have the least involvement as possible. Sometimes, we feel it is not a big enough or important enough project for us to personally handle so we delegate it to our MIS or other senior executives.

However, if there is anyone in the organization who is best qualified, equipped and prepared to drive this project, it is the chief executive. Of all the revolutionary changes taking place in business, the changing role of business leaders is the most critical.

The new leadership requires executives who can analyze and plan, make tough decisions, inspire and motivate others, and find real solutions to problems and challenges. They must have the wisdom and the flexibility to adopt strategies fluid enough to respond to the changes in the business environment or as needed by the organization given the circumstances.

They must lead themselves and this holds true for companies of any size whether large, medium or small. As mentioned in "Sun Tzu: War and Management:" "The management of a large company is similar to that of a small company. It is a matter of organization and structure."

So for IT projects to succeed, the chief executive must lead this undertaking and appoint a highly trusted and qualified cross-functional core group of managers and executives to manage the IT plan and strategies.

Steven Covey in his book, "7 Habits of Highly Effective People," makes a very simple but very good distinction between leadership and management. He says that "Leadership is doing the right things" and "Management is doing things right."

The business leader must decide what the organization needs and what needs to be done to achieve its objectives. The core group manages the project to accomplish these objectives. Management success can never compensate for the absence of or the failure of leadership.

Have passion and energy. You may ask, "How can I ever feel passion for IT?" Well, as it is with learning new things, a new craft, or even a new sport, the BETTER you become, the more interest you develop, the more PASSION and enthusiasm you will feel for IT.

The key here is learning. Coming from an extreme zero-base knowledge in IT, there is really a lot of catching up to do. The learning curve is always very steep, especially when learning totally new fields and technical matters. So read up, read trade magazines, journals, and product brochures of vendors/suppliers.

Familiarize yourself with technical jargon so you can catch up with technical discussions. Learn from meetings, briefings and discussions with IT partners and don't hesitate to ask questions. Ask them to explain until you fully understand the concepts, features, relationships, etc.

Learn from the different players in the industry. Remember you only need to know what technologies are available, how and which technologies can help you achieve what you want. So leave the technology stuff to the IT experts.

Pretty soon you will feel comfortable with the subject and eventually find yourself actually enjoying IT. You will truly enjoy IT when you start getting the results you want.

Energy is required for driving any major project. Condition your mind and body so you always look forward to your IT related activities. Prepare your body for this exercise by exercising and reducing stressful and unnecessary activities.

Remember: You've got to have the "E" for E-Business to make it work!

Now that you know the four secrets to successful IT implementation, you are now ready to take the exciting and challenging computerization journey that holds the promise of progress for your enterprise.

(This article reflects the personal views of the author which she presented as one of the speakers at the MAP Forum on "Change Management in Philippine Setting" on May 31, 2001. Ms Aw is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines and executive vice president of the Destileria Limtuaco and Co. Inc. The MAP secretariat and the author may be reached via mapsec@globe.com.ph)

MOVEMENTS

Nortel has new managing director

ANTONIO Pio de Roda has been appointed managing director of Nortel Networks Phils. He will be responsible for delivering the high-performance Internet to customers in this market.

Pio de Roda has extensive experience in the information technology and communications industry in the Philippines with companies including IBM, Lucent Technologies and Software AG. Prior to joining Nortel Networks, he was chief operating officer of Sun Microsystems Philippines.

"We are delighted to welcome Tony Pio de Roda in his new role," said Masood Tariq, president, Nortel Networks Asia Pacific.

"Tony's significant expertise in the communications industry in the Philippines will further strengthen Nortel Networks' commitment to enterprise, carrier and service providers customers in this important market.

Pio de Roda holds an MBA and a Bachelor's degree in business economics from the University of the Philippines.

Watson Wyatt appoints new director

WATSON Wyatt has appointed Gabriel Daza Orendain as one of the directors of the human capital group based in the Philippines.

Orendain brings to the organization over 14 years of professional and consulting experience in various areas of human resource, with focus on building organization and individual competencies.

Prior to joining Watson Wyatt, he was director of the regional competence and support center of Siemens corporate HR based in Singapore. During this period, he provided consulting services to HR organizations in 12 countries in the region focusing on HR effectiveness and customer satisfaction.

He began his consulting career in 1987 with the human resource and organizational development group of John Clements Consultants. As senior managing consultant in the firm, he focused on service quality and sales and marketing for major multinational firms of various industries.

Marco Polo has new additions

THE MARCO Polo, Davao, recently named three top management heads to join a dynamic team of competent executives.

To join the team are: Richard M. Cajucom, front office manager, Monina Lasala, human resources manager and Art Boncato Jr., director of sales and marketing.

Cajucom boasts of an extensive background in the field of Hotel and Resort services. He started from the ranks at the Mandarin Oriental and was part of the opening and pre opening of world-renowned properties like the Shangri-La Hotel Manila, New World Renaissance Hotel and The Heritage Hotel Manila.

His background in the field of Front Office Management has earned him a diploma in Front Office Operations from the Hotel and Restaurant Association of the Philippines (HRAP). As the newly appointed front office manager of the Marco Polo, Cajucom shall oversee operations of the front office department and will handle a team that aims to exceed guest expectations through personalized service.

Monina Lasala was promoted to human resources manager from the position of training manager. Before joining the Marco Polo, Davao, Lasala held vital positions as human resources development officer.

The Marco Polo, Davao's sales team will be led by Art Boncato, Jr., its new director of sales and marketing.

Boncato brings with him a wide range of experience in marketing & public relations and in organizing national and international events, conventions and exhibits. His extensive background in this field was gained from being the managing director of convenors, a professional congress and events organizer.

Apart from being the president of the Davao Tourism Association, he also holds other vital positions in various tourism and socio-civic organizations such as the SKAL Club, the East Asean Growth Tourism Council, the Hotel and Restaurant Association of the Philippines and the Davao City Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

With these proud additions, The Marco Polo, Davao aims to continually establish its position as the market leader in the Hotel Industry.

Marco Polo Hotel Group, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Wharf (Holdings) Limited, has a portfolio of seven properties in Asia—The Marco Polo Hongkong Hotel, The Marco Polo Gateway and The Marco Polo Prince in Hongkong, The Marco Polo, Xiamen in China, The Marco Polo's Omni Saigon Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, and The Marco Polo, Davao, in the Philippines. Soon to open is The Marco Polo, Beijing.

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UNITED OVERSEAS BANK PHILIPPINES

Beat the Abu Sayyaf, save the exchange rate

By Dennis M. Arroyo

AS OF this writing, the exchange rate is more than P51 per dollar. The rate kindles fears that oil and other imports will become more costly, unleashing higher prices. Where will the exchange rate go from here?

This article argues that the government must beat the Abu Sayyaf to rescue the exchange rate. A quick, decisive victory will be a watershed event: it will signal that the Philippines is indeed moving away from being a soft state.

The show of force will return the state to its trend of victories. There are many in this year alone: People Power II, the arrest of a corrupt former President, the defeat of the May 1 rebellion by his allies, and the 8-5 result of the May 14 elections.

The fly in the ointment is the Abu Sayyaf. The bandits are very mobile, flush with cash, and armed to the teeth. They have 29 hostages, counting three Americans. The hostage-takers number 490 in Basilan, and they have fought off, so far, the 4,000 troops sent to capture them.

"Their guns are even more powerful than those of the soldiers," said Joel Maturan, town mayor of Tipo-Tipo, Basilan. "They are recruiting continuously," he told Agence France Presse in an article printed in the INQUIRER.

The Abu Sayyaf represents a cancer afflicting the soft state. Outlaw groups like it prevent the state from exercising control over its territory.

Soft state, high entropy

As stated in my previous articles, the soft state is beset by problems. This follows the arguments raised by UP School of Economics Dean Raul Fabella. He believes that the inability to enforce rules probably shaves off 2 percent from annual gross domestic product growth.

As he puts it, "Riding a soft state in the global competition is like running a marathon with a low grade fever."

In every society there is a measure of disorder in enforcing the law. This is called ENTROPY and it varies across nations. A SOFT state is one that does not really enforce its own rules. It has high entropy.

Hard states enforce the letter of the law, so they have little entropy. Soft states subject the law to many interpretations—the discretion of the policeman, for one. The less predictable the enforcement of the law, the greater is entropy.

Put another way, in societies with low entropy, the laws of the land carry more information. When entropy is high, when there is little enforcement, laws carry meager information.

Much discretion over laws

One can criticize this society for caring little about the rules. A tariff raises prices a little for many consumers even as it provides a windfall of money for a few families. So who cares? And "jueteng" is supposed to be illegal, yet it is seen all across the country.

It's no surprise then to find rule enforcement for sale. People can make money without having to make goods of value. Just extract money from power over the rules.

A cop catches a traffic violator and does not hand him a ticket in exchange for a bribe. City hall slows down paper work to attract grease money. A public official gets a cut for selecting one contractor over another.

All told, the state takes over the role of the market, and the market in turn takes over governance. One can speak of the "marketization" of governance. Put more bluntly, we have a state of disorder.

Entropy bad for business

The fact is that businessmen are repelled by entropy. It makes their investments more risky.

When the rules are reliable, firms know that the rent they pay on office space will not be changed on mere whim. But when the rules are not stable, there lurks the danger of losing the whole business.

If enforcement of rules is not stable, few would have the guts to invest much of their money. Why get into highway construction when the deals would go to friends in government? The burden of disorder results in poor tax collection, roads filled with potholes, slow investment growth.

Rescue the exchange rate

The impotence of the soft state therefore impacts on the exchange rate. A high degree of entropy discourages investors from coming in. Worse, it spooks capital into fleeing the country.

A loss of foreign investment results in less dollars for the Philippines. When the supply of dollars dwindles, the price of each dollar rises. That means further deterioration of the exchange rate.

On the other hand, the resounding defeat of the Abu Sayyaf signals the strength of the state. Government is fully in command of the situation. Malacañang had survived the attack of May 1. If it routs the Abu Sayyaf, it can flex its muscles to crack down on the corrupt in a long-term campaign.

Law will be followed more often; rules will be enforced more strictly. Investors can then look at the Philippines with greater confidence.

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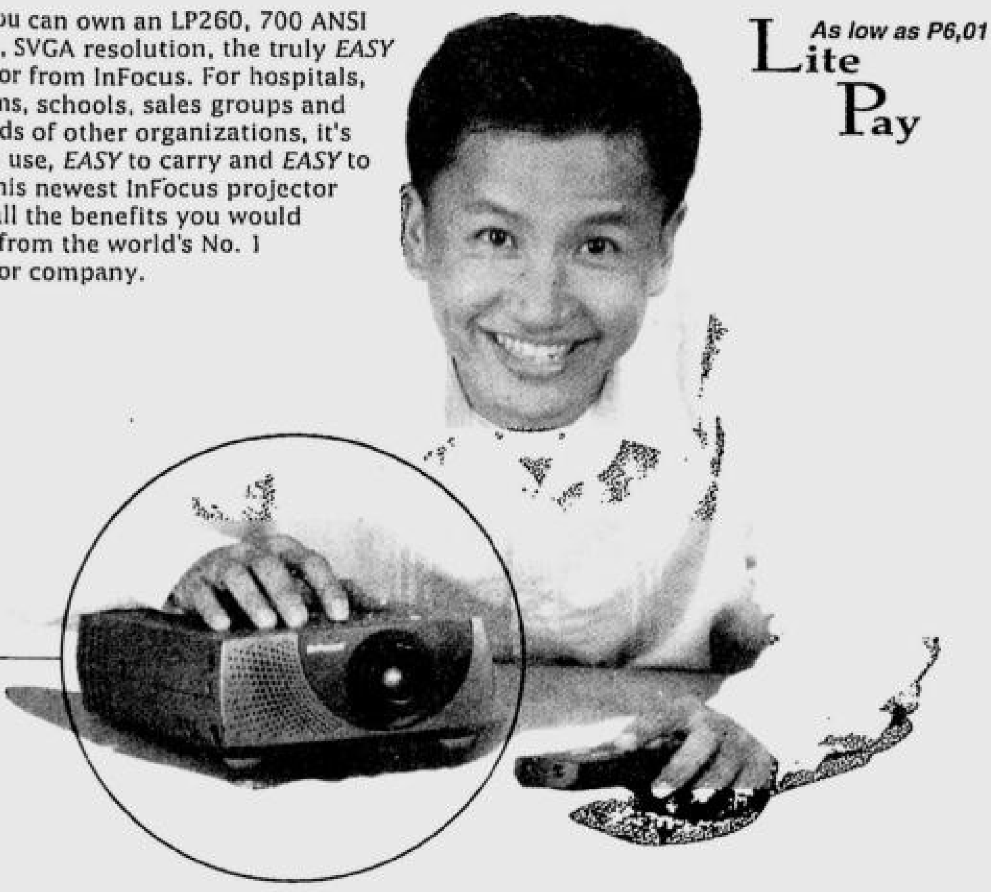

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Before you merge with that firm, know their employees' values first

By Abigail L. Ho

A STAGGERING 70 percent of mergers worldwide fail in terms of not being able to meet financial expectations.

Of this 70 percent, 52 percent fail because of poor relationships among the people in the merged companies. Why? Because people from different companies have different corporate cultures—different value systems.

Failure is more the exception than the rule if companies would just take the time to find out what values their employees live and work by. If this were done before a merger, employees could have an easier time adjusting to each other's personal and work values.

But values are not "measurable" things. Unlike intelligence quotient (IQ) and emotional intelligence (EQ) which have specific measurement standards, measuring one's values just does not seem all that possible.

IQ

A number of tests can determine a person's IQ. Just visit the e-mode website and there are scores of tests to choose from. Or one can opt for a professionally administered test with math, science and logic brain bombers to last a lifetime. Or if one is particularly confident of one's intelligence, why not try the MENSA test and become a part of this international society of geniuses?

EQ

Remember the famous marshmallow test of long ago where children were left alone in a room with a marshmallow that they were not supposed to eat until the test administrator got back?

If a child was able to actually wait for the test administrator to get back before eating the marshmallow, he was given another marshmallow as a bonus. Children who were able to wait usually ended up doing better in life.

VQ

What?

Values quotient (VQ): a measure of one's value system to determine one's behavior. But values cannot be measured since they are totally abstract, and are relative to culture and whatever else is in the person's environment. Right?

Wrong. Twenty years ago, that would have been right, but with the advent of advanced technology and some very brilliant minds, measuring one's VQ is not entirely impossible.

The Hall-Tonna Inventory of Values.

It is interesting to know that people actually took pains to study human values to come up with a tool to measure human behavior through his value system.

Priests Brian Hall and Benjamin Tonna started their study in 1970 by digging deep into the human psyche to come up with a list of 125 values which include security, self-worth and self-preservation.

Since then, there have been a lot of developments. The basis of the values platform is now called the Cultural Assessment Database (CADB) which means that each employee of an organization accomplishes a questionnaire on the Internet and a database confidential to the organization is created.

This then would help an organization know its employees better.

Company success

Around four years ago, global solutions company Siemens USA approached Hall's group to conduct a survey of its 8,000 personnel to see how similar the values they work by to the values that Siemens founder Werner Siemens had when he started the company more than 150 years ago.

They also studied Siemens' old diaries and letters so they can get a more or less clear grasp of his values.

It turned out that most of Siemens' employees had similar values. These values, in turn, were the same values that Werner Siemens had when he founded the company.

More than the competence of Siemens USA employees, though, Hall said their similar work and personal values contributed to the company's worldwide success.

Do it in your own company

But this test is not limited to clients in the US. This value measurement system is already in the Philippines.

"We are already doing this in Saint Paul, Quezon City and St. Scholastica's College," Values Technology Research Center president and CEO Ma. Bella Dumas said.

Dumas is the only person in Asia accredited to teach this value measurement method. She conducts seminars for interested individuals as well as corporations.

"I want to train people to use this system. It's not only good for employers wanting to know their employees' values. It also helps small organizations, families and even individuals. This actually involves looking inside one's self for one's hidden potentials," she added.

Not only does Hall's group conduct company value measurements, they also do executive coaching and succession planning.

Wanted: Agile operations heads

Innovation is not enough, advantages may be shortlived

By Myrna Rodriguez-Co

AS BUSINESS environments continue to experience rapid changes, markets keep expanding and going beyond national boundaries and as economic uncertainties increase, enterprises are required to be more flexible. Innovation, it seems, is no longer enough. An enterprise should be quick in innovating.

Agility is important, because any competitive advantage will be shortlived. Today's "hot" product or concept will be junk in a few months.

The importance placed on agility has given way to new approaches to business operations that have come to be known by the term "agile manufacturing." Nowadays, "agile" has become associated if not synonymous with "world class."

Not just techniques

Agile manufacturing, according to American business consultant Brian H. Maskell, is not just a set of techniques, but rather represents a fundamental change in operations management philosophy that encompasses quality, just-in-time processes, people, and flexibility.

- Quality—Agile manufacturers do not only quickly detect quality problems but get to the root of the problems.
- Just in Time—Production processes are continually improved to reduce and eliminate waste.
- People—Agile manufacturers take the trouble to develop trusting relationships between managers and workers.
- Flexibility—Manufacturers are committed to production and design flexibility without passing on added cost to customers.

Japanese companies are credited with introducing and developing "agile manufacturing" concepts over the last 40 years. These pioneering companies—Toyota Motors, for example—simplified production processes and consequently eliminated the need for sophisticated planning and control systems.

What about small businesses?

Small is agile?

If it is true that "big, agile companies is an oxymoron today," then small enterprises seem to have the edge in moving faster and being more flexible, innovative and efficient. This must be true, especially when we see more and more big corporations breaking up into smaller, semi-autonomous units that have less bureaucracy and more accountability.

Small companies are inherently characterized by quick decision-making processes, focused product developments, a manpower that is multiskilled and versatile, and personalized relationships with workers. Big corporations are known to be wastefully bureaucratic. Size impedes fast innovation and flexibility. In the United States, it is estimated that half of American exports are attributed to companies with 19 or fewer employees. It is the speed and efficiency of these companies that big business is trying to copy through deconstruction. Millions and millions of computers connected to one another make small companies viable. And as computers become more numerous and more powerful, it is predicted that small companies will dominate the world of business.

Ramon Castillo of Tradix Inc., a Metro Manila-based manufacturer of electronic equipment and gadgets, is an example of a small entrepreneur who made use of information technology to achieve agility. He explains how: "We did product development by surfing the Net for customer specifications; we also did an online search for information on integrated circuits. After developing the products, we launched a Net-based marketing campaign. As a result our marketing costs are now much smaller."

Gigi Campos of Reeds and Weeds, a handicraft exporter from Negros Occidental, agrees that small is agile. "We are able to shift product lines without needing to lay off workers."

Castillo avers though that "small is agile" is only a generalization. There are small firms, he explains, that fail to cash in on their smallness, just as there are large companies that manage to retain their entrepreneurial spirit.

Challenge to managers

Eyes are therefore now focused on the operations manager—he or she who is often held responsible for developing production improvement strategies, reengineering work practices, cutting costs and raising productivity, and examining the organization's systems and technologies.

The typical symptoms of a traditional manufacturer include: high inventories, shortages, delayed production schedules, high work-in-process, large batch sizes, confused and cumbersome systems.

Operations managers, among other senior managers, have to commit themselves to making the changes required to implement agile manufacturing methods.

They need to look for breakthroughs in reducing costs, improving quality, and responding to marketplace needs.

This implies building a culture of continuous improvement on the shop floor. In turn, this requires frontline managers willing to re-examine and revise all traditional systems and procedures.

Are our operations managers up to this challenge?

(Author's note: The UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries will run a course on Production/Operations Management (ProdMan) from June 23 to July 10. Sessions will be Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Ms Ophie Bravo and Tess Santos, project staff, may be reached at Tel. 928-7076 and 926-6316.)

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Hoping to be in business? Find out whether you're up to it

(From page C4)

Can you make decisions?

a. I can make up my mind in a hurry if I have to. It usually turns okay, too.

b. I can if I have plenty of time.

c. If I have to make up my mind fast, I think later I should have decided the other way.

Can people trust what you say?

a. You bet they can. I don't say things I don't mean.

b. I try to be straightforward most of the time, but sometimes I just say what is easiest.

c. Why bother if the other fellow doesn't know the difference.

Can you stick with it?

a. If I make up my mind to do something, I don't let anything stop me.

b. I usually finish what I start—if it goes well.

c. Why bother if the other fellow doesn't know the difference.

How healthy are you?

a. I never feel tired or rundown.

b. I have enough energy for most things I want to do.

c. I run out of energy sooner than most of my friends seem to.

Done? How many "As" did you check? How many "Bs"? How many "Cs"?

If you checked mostly "As," you probably have what it takes to run a business. A's represent qualities required in entrepreneurship, like having initiative, task orientation, leadership, sense of responsibility, planning skill, energy, sincerity, ability to face problems squarely, and determination.

If you ticked off mostly "Bs" you would likely have difficulty running a business by yourself. B's typify traits of followers who avoid responsibilities, are easily discouraged when faced with obstacles, lack decision-making skills, and do not give much importance to networking. To succeed in business, you need to find a partner who is strong where you are weak.

If your answers are mostly "Cs" even having a strong partner may not be enough to offset your weaknesses. C's embody the characteristics of individuals who tend to take the easy way, are probably loners, like to assume a low profile, would rather take the back seat, are pessimistic by nature, do not believe in planning, are not quality-conscious and are usually short of patience and [illegible] to see things through.

How did you fare in the test? If you didn't do too well, don't despair. Studies show that entrepreneurs are not necessarily "to a business born." You can push yourself to be one, provided you are willing to develop the required competencies.

Assessing oneself for entrepreneurial readiness is one of the activities lined up in the coming Appreciation Course on Entrepreneurship (ACE) being organized by the UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries (UP ISSI) in commemoration of the 35th anniversary of its founding. The program is set on June 29 and is open to the public.

The one-day course will cover the following topics: personal competencies of successful entrepreneurs; identifying and selecting a business enterprise; formulating a business plan; skills requirements in enterprise management; and forms and sources of assistance.

(Ms Nanette C. Milla, program manager, may be reached for reservations at 928-70-76 to 79 or fax 926-6316.)

Entrepreneurial skills at marketing seminar

IMPROVING sales, market shares and profits for this year will be the focus of the "39th Marketing Strategy and Plans" workshop of Mansmith and Fielders Inc., on June 19-21 at the Manila Galleria Suites.

The seminar will reveal how to maximize a company's competitive advantage to ensure continued growth especially during this economic crisis. Among the key marketing and business concerns to be discussed are spotting business opportunities, establishing customer loyalty, and creating a profitable brand.

The principal lecturer for the three-day seminar will be former Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) national president and Agora awardee Josiah Go who has conducted seminars for top local and multinational companies such as Sony, Kodak, San Miguel Corp. and Universal Robina Corp.

Interested parties may call 723-6671, 416-4662, 722-2318 or 727-7142, e-mail at mansmith@imanila.com.ph or visit their website at www.mansmith.net.

CRM: It's worth half your bottom line

PHILADELPHIA retailer John Wannamaker is known for having put in a nutshell the age-old management conundrum regarding the value of advertising. "Half the money I spend on advertising is wasted," he said. "The trouble is, I don't know which half."

- Most CEOs in just about any industry could say the same thing about all marketing activities: they're costly, risky, and difficult to measure for returns.
- But make no mistake about it: customer-focused activities still demand our rapt attention and significant investment.

A recent study completed by Accenture shows that a company's investment in its overall interaction with its customers—in its "customer relationship management" (CRM)—accounts for half the difference between top and average financial performance.

The differences are dramatic. The chart below groups marketing, sales, and service capabilities into five critical areas. The corresponding numbers indicate the amount by which return on investment (ROI) increases for a $1-billion enterprise when investment in any of these activities is increased from average to high.

	$ millions
Customer Insight	25.0
Turning customer information into insight	12.0
Customer retention and acquisition	5.5
Measuring profitability	4.5
segmentation	2.5
Customer Offers	19.0
Strong value propositions	9.0
Managing product and service mix	5.0
New product and services	3.5
Brand management	1.5
Customer Interactions	42.0
Customer service	13.0
Sales planning	7.5
Key account management	6.0
Advertising	6.5
Promotion	6.0
Channel management	3.0
High Performance Organization	40.0
Motivating and rewarding people	13.0
Attracting and retaining people	10.0
Building selling and service skills	9.5
Ability to change the organization	9.5
Building service culture	2.0
Enterprise Integration	17.0
Partner and alliance	9.0
E-CRM	8.0

SOURCE: "DIVIDE AND CONQUER" ACCENTURE AND MONTGOMERY RESEARCH INC., 2000

- According to this research, a typical $1-billion business unit could add $40 million to its profits by increasing its investment in CRM by just 10 percent.
- If this same unit were to invest sufficiently to push its CRM performance from average to high, it could improve pretax profit by as much as $140 million.

The study also identifies those activities that produce the greatest impact on financial performance. Three activities emerged as the top winners among the 21 most influential levers that were identified from the 50 individual marketing, sales, and service activities that comprise most CRM efforts:

- Motivating and rewarding employees.
- Customer service.
- Converting information into insight.

Motivating and rewarding CRM employees: The employees who most influence the quality of the customer relationship require more creative motivation and rewards than may have been used in the past. Some winning examples:

Sprint PCS rewards strong CRM performers with rotating assignments to coveted jobs.

Intel confers achievement awards on its CRM superstars and rewards seven-year veterans with eight-week sabbaticals.

Charles Schwab pays its customer teams salaries and bonuses, instead of commissions. The bonuses are based on customers' service experience and overall asset growth.

Customer service: Today's market leaders are getting far more focused on learning what matters most to customers and investing in that.

Marriott International has determined that the first 10 minutes a customer spends in one of its hotels matters most in their overall impression of service.

Hence, the company has invested in sophisticated front-desk information technology that allows desk personnel to ask such finely tuned questions upon check-in as, "Do you still prefer a non-smoking room?"

Some companies identify and make unique investment in their highest-value customers, by:

- Building dedicated websites for high-volume users (Dell Computer Corp.).
- Providing special reservation numbers (airlines).
- Showing concern for their customers beyond the norm, as in the case of a French bottled gas company which decreased customer defections by 50 percent in the first six months of a pilot program that alerts customers to potential problems when they are still relatively small and fixable.

Converting information into insight: The third most important CRM capability that emerged in the study is gathering and providing frontline employees instant access to critical customer support data, such as:

- Previous purchases
- Contact history
- Prior product inquiries
- Lifestylle data

Examples include:

Mercedes Benz employs such a database to serve its 10 million European customers.

> Never in the history of commerce have consumers had as much power as they have today

Norway's leading telecom, IT, and media company, Telenor Mobile, has armed every member of its sales organization with all the information needed to manage each customer's entire sales/purchase life cycle.

Customer relationship management: What differentiates the successful. In a recent conference board survey of senior management team members, we were interested in learning just how widespread the practice of customer relationship management (CRM) is and how it is being practiced by companies. Our sample indicates that CRM is already in significant use in major markets, with 38 out of 83 (46 percent) US and European companies reporting its use. In fact, while half of marketing investment drives revenue, one-third is invested in building relationships. But that still constitutes less than a majority, so we can't yet say that CRM has taken the world by storm. On the other hand, the incidence of CRM systems and solutions is gradually increasing, which is consistent with other study findings.

Generally, we found that the larger the firm in terms of financial size, the greater the tendency to employ a CRM strategy. It may also be telling that, among those who had a strategy, the average time horizon employed was three years, with the average estimated implementation time four years. In other words, the planning and implementation of CRM strategy is very time-and-resource-intensive, and it requires a long-term, enterprise-wide, consistent commitment.

Our more detailed findings provide insights into what differentiates customer relationship management in successful firms.

These insights include:

- Strategic focus
- CRM systems
- Measuring and evaluating, CRM performance

Strategic focus: Respondents reported that the strategic rationales for pursuing CRM are, first, to increase customer retention/loyalty, and, second, to respond to competitive pressures.

CRM development and implementation appears to be a bona fide strategic initiative in successful companies, as evidenced by the top-down involvement we noted:

- CEO—Funds and supports it.
- Marketing-Serves as the leader and chief implementer.
- CIO/MIS/IT—Supports and provides the technology to implement.

CRM systems: Getting the most from CRM efforts depends a great deal on the quality of information that can be employed and the degree to which that information is available at the right place and time. The fact that, according to our research, a majority of firms warehouse data—with nearly all maintaining the data themselves—underscores the strategic nature of this data. High performing CRM systems are crucial.

The conference board survey indicates that the systems in place today tend to be fundamental. The top two components respondents cited as being in their CRM systems are exactly what we would expect to see in any such system:

- Customer contact tracking and distribution.
- Monitoring queries and complaints, and logging resolutions.

Alternately, the responses on systems planning show that there is still more to do on basics, even though management is also looking to the next level of interactivity. Top planned or piloted projects are:

- Enabling customer interaction via VOIP (voice-over Internet protocol).
- Managing responses to e-mails and Web queries.

Clearly, both of these have a definite e-commerce emphasis. This certainly reflects the trend; while Web-based business represents a small percentage of overall business today, according to the executives surveyed, it will represent about one-fifth of business two years from now.

Measuring and evaluating CRM performance: CRM appears to have been launched by our respondents as far more than a mindset. Our survey indicated that leading firms in CRM implementation rigorously measure their efforts. The top CRM metrics among all respondents are:

- Customer satisfaction survey scores.
- Current vs previous sales cycle.

The results show that highly successful CRM firms are also paying attention to the details inside these broad categories; they consider all of the following metrics to be significantly more important than do less successful firms:

- Overall customer satisfaction.
- Growth in new customer satisfaction.
- Profit vs cost in retaining customer.
- Current vs previous sales cycle.
- Current vs. previous campaign time.

(From the CEO Challenge: Top Marketplace and Management Issue 2001)

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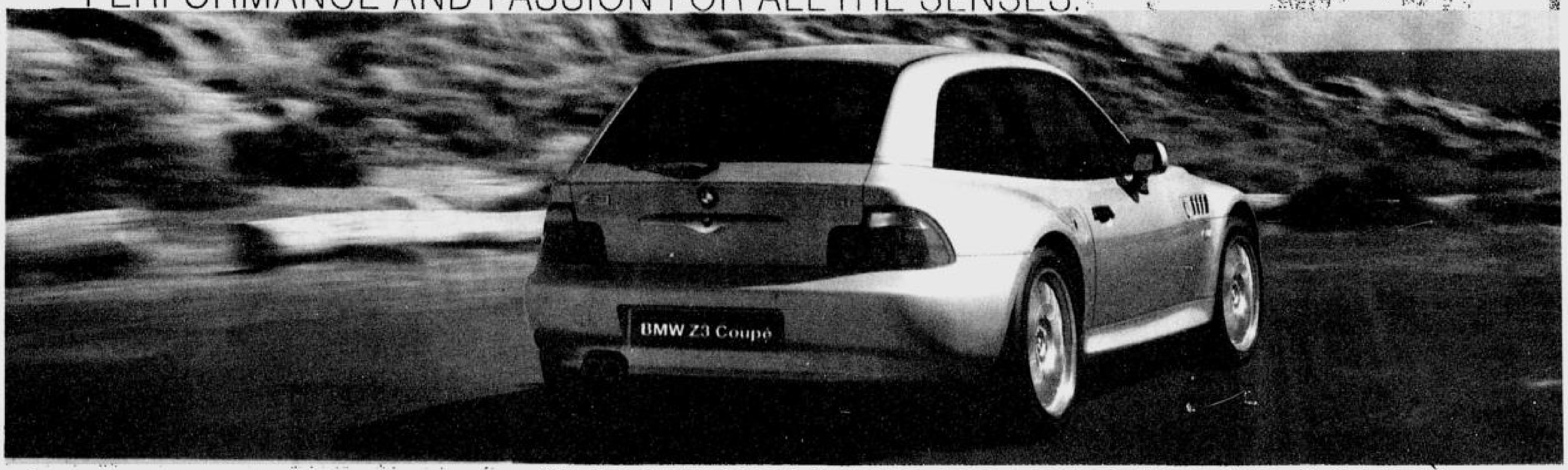

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BUSINESS*Monday*

Groups move to eradicate poverty in the country

DJORDJIDJA Petkoski of the WB. Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo and Tomas Apacible.

JOSE L. Cuisia Jr.,president, Philamlife

THE INSTITUTE for Solidarity in Asia, in cooperation with the Office of the President, the World Bank Institute and the Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD), held an "Open Conference on National Governance Reforms" in Manila recently.

President Macapagal-Arroyo expressed her goal of reducing the number of families below the poverty line to 9 percent or less within the decade during her inaugural address.

Since her speech and the most recent events of Edsa, the focus on poverty has never been so vital, making the conference timely and appropriate.

The Institute for Solidarity in Asia (ISA) was established to undertake national governance agendas and its overriding umbrella goal is to alleviate poverty in the country within the decade through good governance.

ISA is an offshoot of the Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD), which last year held its open conference on governance reforms in the corporate level.

Former Finance Secretary Jesus P. Estanislao says its programs and training seminars have provided opportunities for corporate directors and other top executives, including government financial institutions (GFIs) and government operated and controlled corporations (GOCCs), to learn, adopt and promote best practices in corporate governance.

The ISA "Open Conference on National Governance Reforms," being the first "multi-sector" event of its kind and the first of a series of consultations, has its strategic purpose which is to help formulate a Comprehensive National Governance Reform Agenda for the Philippines to be submitted to the appropriate bodies by November 2001.

Estanislao said, "Good governance is the main means for achieving our overriding strategic goal. We must adhere to the three core values of good governance; fairness, accountability and transparency."

This open conference was attended by various sectors of our society. Prominent personalities—academic, corporate and government, including an expert from the World Bank Institute—spoke and presented their ideas about the different aspects of their involvement governance reforms.

The focal point of the event was a special presentation where the "Voices of Our Youth" and "Voices of the Less Privileged" were heard whom, according to Dr. Estanislao, are the rightful beneficiaries of ICD's and ISA's work.

WORLD Bank's P. Petkoski, SEC Chair Lilia R. Bautista and JoaquinCunanan/PricewaterhouseCoopers chair Corazon de la Paz.

ISA president Jesus P. Estanislao, Corazon dela Paz and D. Petkoski.

SEN. Mechai Viravaidya of Thailand, former member of Eminent Persons Group.

ANITA Baker of the World Bank Institute

FORMER Trade and Industry Secretary Rizalino Navarro

BAKYT Kartanbaer, director of Corporate Development Center,

ENKHJARGAL Adiya, lecturer, Mongolian National University

LAND BANK of the Philippines chair Gary Teves

DR. PAUL Dumol, Rafael Alunan, BSP deputy governor Amando Tetangco Jr., Cornelis Luhulima and Francis Estrada, chair and principal, Equity Managers Asia Inc.

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LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor ■ LITO B. ZULUETA, Subsection Editor

Hail to the artists!

(Story on page D2)

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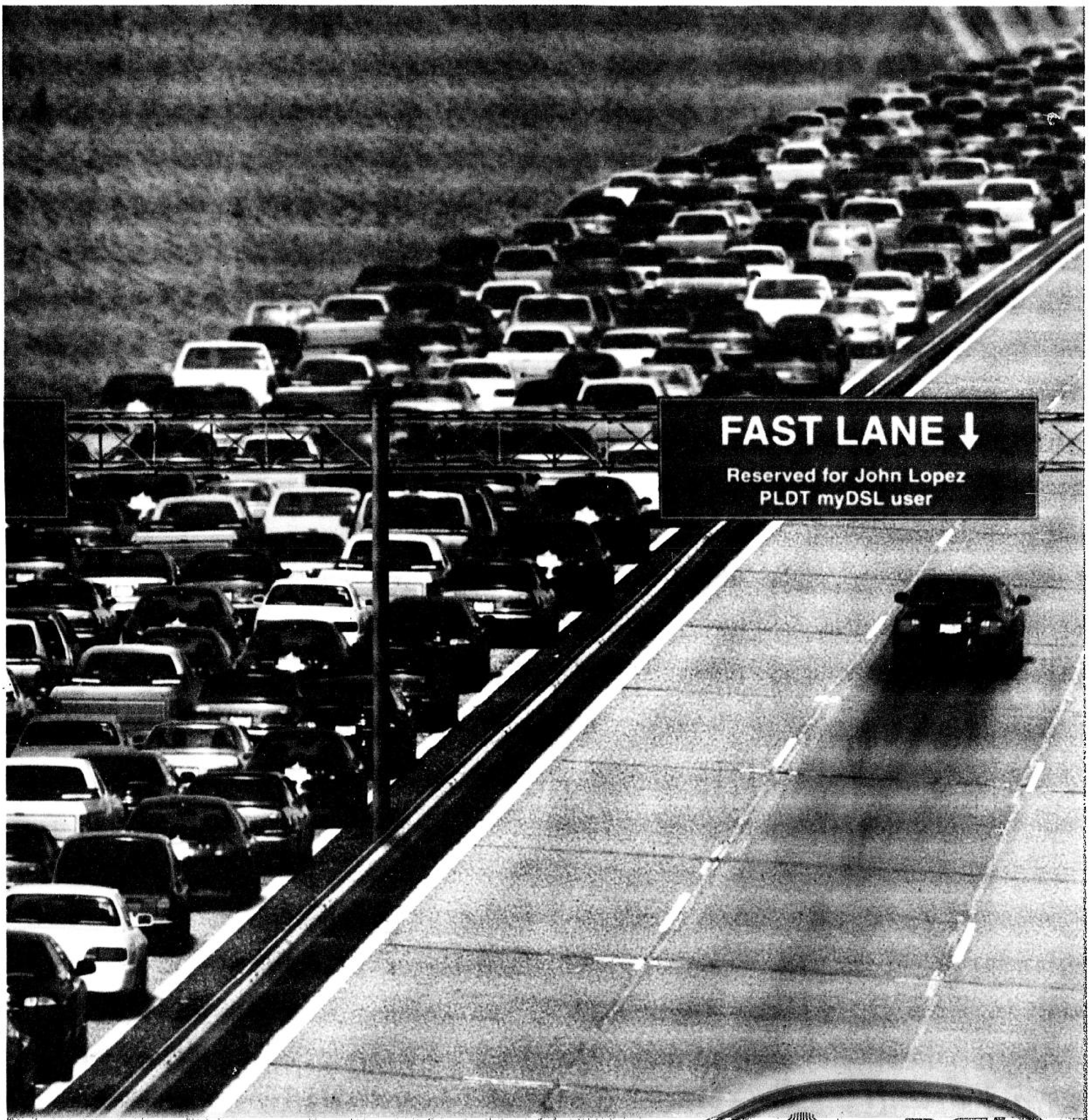

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Hail to the artists!

IT was spring at least for a day when the arts and culture community feted the country's newest National Artists last June 13. That early afternoon, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo conferred the Parangal sa Pambansang Alagad ng Sining (National Artist Award) on the late film director Ishmael Bernal, the late actor-director-playwright Severino Montano, painter Ang Kiukok and fictionist Francisco Sionil Jose at the Malacañang Palace Ceremonial Hall.

On the same day, an exhibit on the National Artists consisting of their memorabilia was opened on the second floor hallway of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP). The Museo ng Kalinangang Pilipino was renamed Bulwagang Pambansang Alagad ng Sining.

Easily dominating the hall was the late National Artist Victorio Edades' mural, "The Builders," a perfect symbol of the Filipino artists' attempts to carve a distinct national identity and aesthetics.

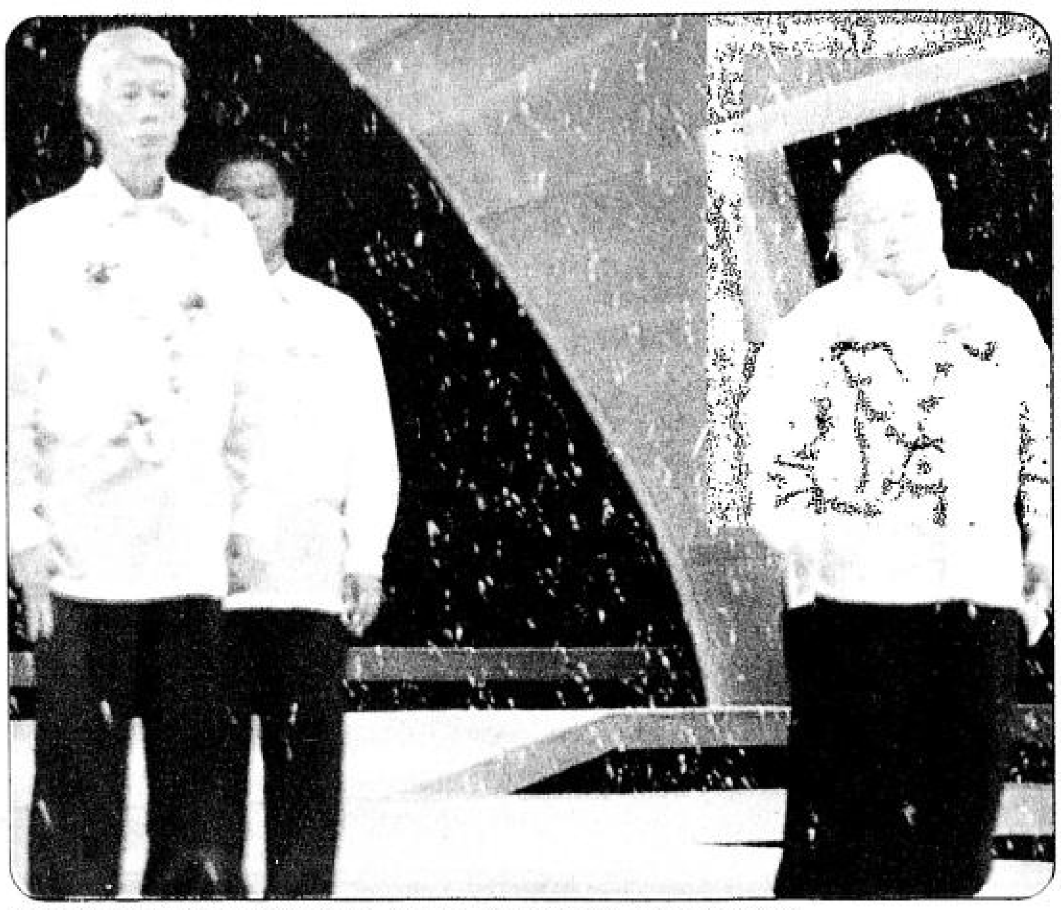
The tribute that came that night at the CCP's Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo (Main Theater) was held in solemn, tasteful splendor. CCP chair Gloria Angara and National Commission on Culture and the Arts chair Jaime Laya welcomed guests and the new National Artists.

Artists paid tribute to the new National Artists. Naty Crame Rogers and Rustica Carpio remembered the achievements of Montano, Rod Paras Perez and Rita Ledesma paid tribute to the genius of Ang Kiukok, and a skittish Gilda Cordero Fernando and a severe Bienvenido Lumbera situated Jose's rightful place in Philippine literature and tradition. Even filmdom's Christopher de Leon and indestructible actress Vilma Santos, just reelected by a landslide as Lipa City mayor, made a touching toast to the cinema of Bernal.

Behn Cervantes did a reading of one of Montano's plays while actor Joonee Gamboa performed a dramatic reading of Jose's classic novel "Po-On." Douglas Nierras presented a new dance piece that was performed by Powerdance. The Philippine Madrigal Singers performed "Bituing Marikit" together with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra. Soprano Rachelle Gerodias rendered special musical number. Audiovisual presentations by Malou Jacob summarized the achievements of the new National Artists.

All in all, it was a single blessed day of cultural homage.

Lito B. Zulueta



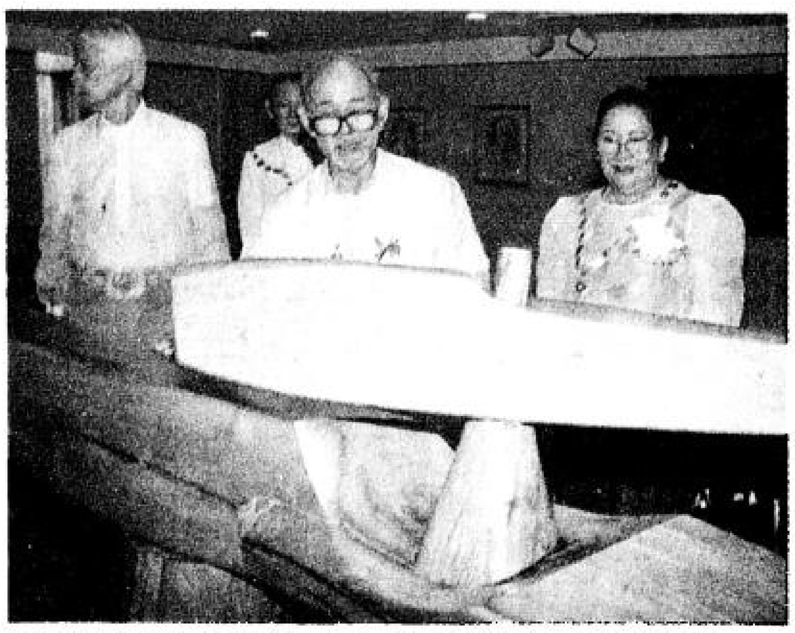
ANG Kiukok and Frankie Sionil Jose bask under the rain of confetti.

SEN. Edgardo Angara and CCP chair Gloria Angara

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

CHRISTOPHER de Leon and Vilma Santos

NATIONAL Artist Lucresia Kasilag views exhibit on Ishmael Bernal.



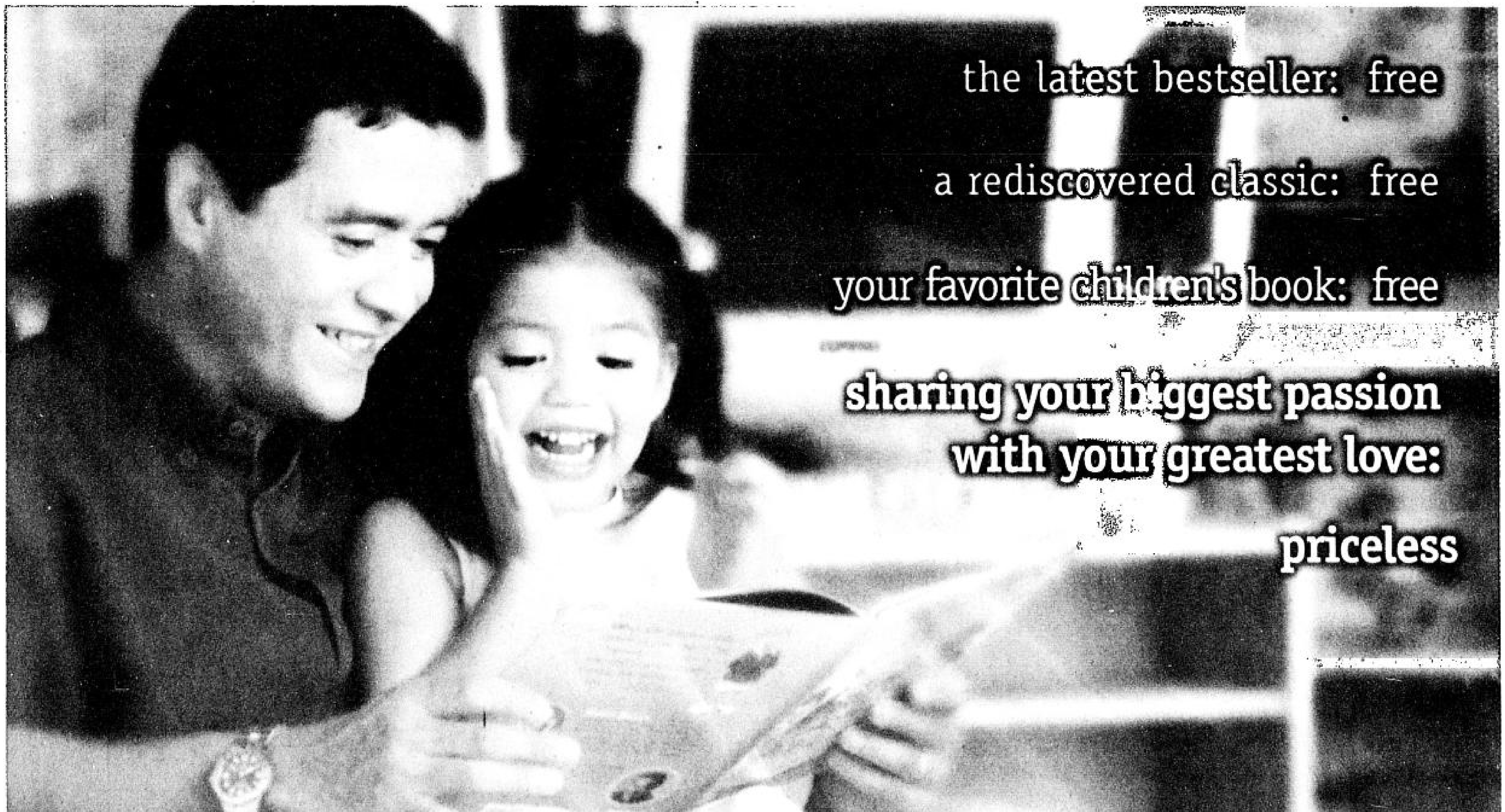
NATIONAL Artists Ang Kiukok, Arturo Luz (back), Napoleon Abueva, and Andrea Veneracion at the CCP National Artists Hall

THE WIDOW of Severino Montano and director Marilou Diaz Abaya, standing in for the late Ishmael Bernal

JOONEE Gamboa

NCCA chair Jaime Laya

BEHN Cervantes reads Severino Montano.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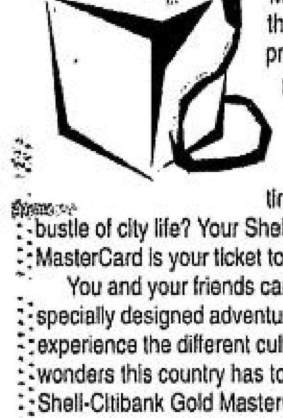

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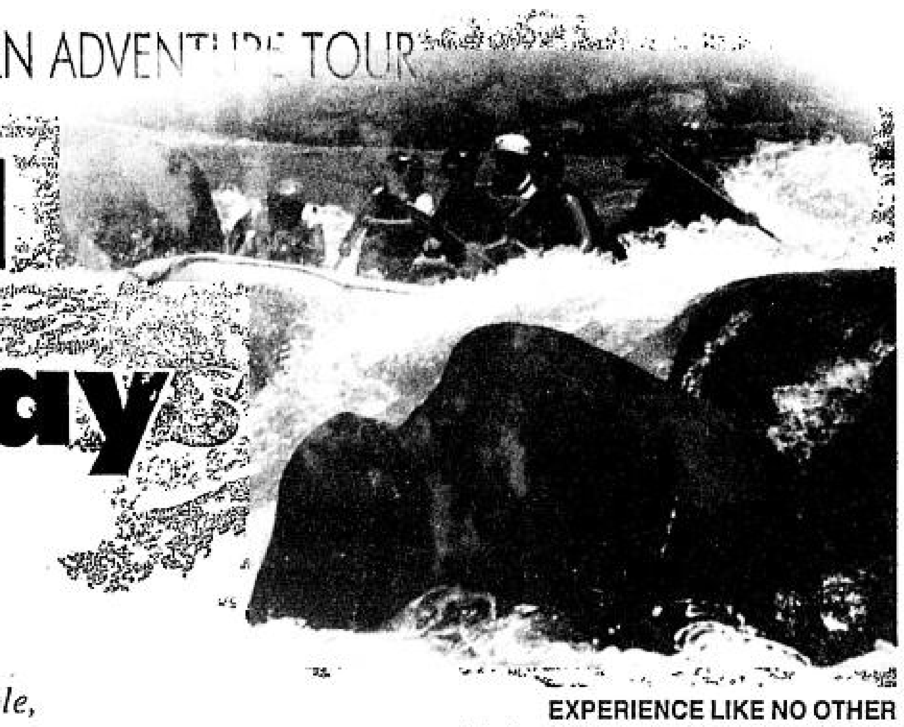
SHELL-CITIBANK GOLD MASTERCARD NORTHERN ADVENTURE TOUR

What we did in the last day of summer

In a span of three days up North, we discovered interesting people, unspoiled wonders, extreme adventures and a new way to gain access to this one-of-a-kind odyssey—using the Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard



EXPERIENCE LIKE NO OTHER
Join the priviledged few who can have the chance to experience an adventure-filled tour courtesy of Shell-Citibank Gold Mastercard.

BY CHARLES E. BUBAN

FOR many, the only place worth visiting up North is Baguio, or Subic, or Vigan. But there's more to see up there that a lot of people haven't been able to explore yet, places that had lingered in quiet isolation from most city folks. And for the lucky few who have actually been to these places, their encounter would cling like lint and compel them to return the next chance that they get.

It was how I felt when I returned back to Manila after a three-day adventure trip in northern Luzon. I never thought I would be rafting in white water in my lifetime, a thought I previously shared with a lot of city people who are so drowned in their own work and everyday chores.

I was just lucky, I said to myself. We were the first ones to enjoy any travel adventure tour from the alliance of a fuel retail and credit card company. We we're like bushwhackers on a National Geographic or a Discovery Channel-type of odyssey. But instead of searching for exotic species or some vanishing tribes we were here to get a break from the rigors of urban living, to rediscover the joys of being on the road for days, and actually set foot on places we only saw on nature channels and travel magazines.

The purpose of our tour was quite clear: we were blazing trails for future Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard cardmembers to use. Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard now offers a new kind of getaway—something that would not require from cardholders visas or passports, but would give the same satisfaction they would often get from going abroad.

"Considering the high cost of travelling abroad, the best option for these affluent and upwardly mobile individuals is to find places here in the Philippines that would satisfy their taste for adventure. But more than anything else, what we're trying to say is there's just really so much more to see here in this country," explains Ramon Del Rosario, Citibank's product manager of cards category marketing.

SHELL-CITIBANK GOLD MASTERCARD
in cooperation with Ford
NORTHERN ADVENTURE TOUR

For its initial offering, Shell-Citibank MasterCard and Shell Velocity, in cooperation with Ford Motors Philippines, teamed up with Adventures and Expeditions Philippines Inc. to draw up an adventure trip in northern Luzon. Three destinations were chosen for the Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard Northern Adventure Tour: Banaue in Ifugao, Tuguegarao in Cagayan and Pasil in Kalinga.

Our group, composed of media people, was invited to chronicle the trip. Not just take notes or shoot pictures, we were urged to join the activities and be the first to purchase necessities on the road using the Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard. Ford provided top-of-the-line 4x4 vehicles, while the various Shell service stations along the route got ready to receive the Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCards for our various gas stops, snack breaks and "wee-wee" stops.

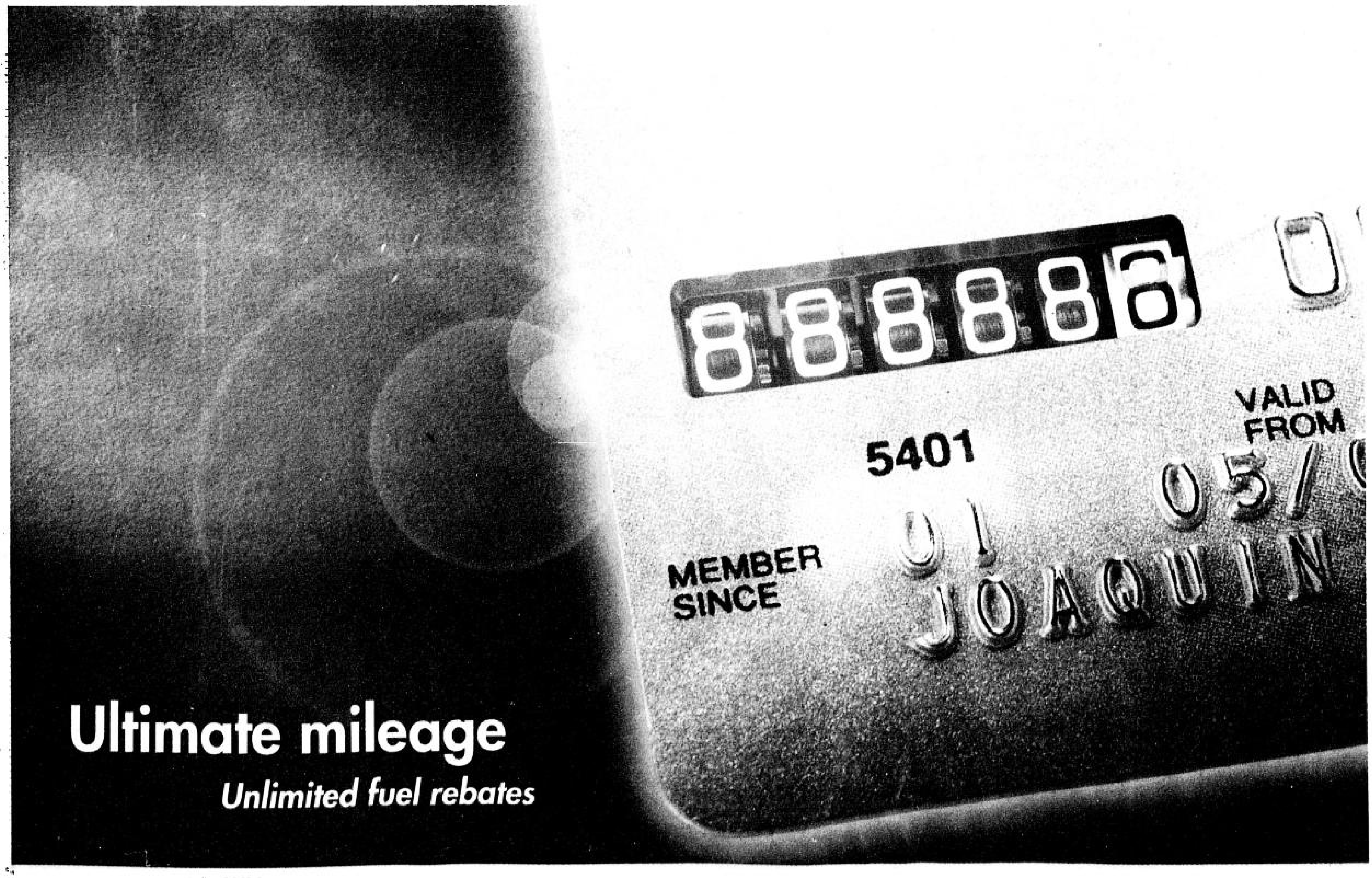
"As we are doing this, we are basically working on a plan to do a sweep of all the Shell stations in the critical areas around the country. We want to facilitate credit card transactions in as many places as possible. As of the moment we have about 200 Shell stations already accepting Shell-Citibank card transactions. In the next couple of months we can expect even more stations being accredited," reveals Del Rosario.

This new concept will also put into action one of Shell-Citibank's Gold MasterCard features: fuel rebates. Simply put, you earn more and more free fuel whenever you continuously use your Shell-Citibank (Gold or Classic) MasterCard to pay for fuel load ups. The rebate will work well during long trips that require large consumption of fuel. "The more purchases you have on your card entitles you to higher savings, specially now with the advent of the double your rebates promo that entitles you to not just the usual 2 percent but 4 percent of rebates up to July 20," announces Roel Cruz, Pilipinas Shell's head of Loyalty Programs for Private Motorists.

Drive to the north

Our group's three-day odyssey began at 3 a.m. in Ford Libis, Quezon City. From the look of the three 2001 SporTracs and two 4x4 Rangers parked outside waiting for us, I knew this was going to be a luxurious and relaxing ride. After a final briefing by Sonya Perez-Bernas of

WHAT WE DID/ D4



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What we did in the last days of summer

THE majestic Hapao Rice Terraces were among the oldest structures in Banaue. The Hapao River that cuts through the center of the rice fields challenges kayak enthusiasts.

(From page D3)

Citibank and Anton Carag Jr. of AEPI, our trip's outfitter, we headed to the nearest Shell station in Libis for our first gas up. Of course, this was also where the first swipe of our Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard would take place. The first load up: full tank of Shell superior fuel products for all the vehicles.

There were hardly any cars on Edsa that early morning and I couldn't believe we were already at the North Expressway in just a few minutes. We exited at Sta. Rita and headed to the direction of Cabanatuan in Nueva Ecija via Maharlika Highway. We gassed up again at Shell Cabanatuan just to be sure we had ample fuel for an even longer drive ahead. Some of us raided Shell Select for a heavy early morning fill up.

In a few hours, we entered Nueva Vizcaya via Dalton Pass. I only read about this place in history books. Named after the only American general killed in the Philippines, Dalton Pass has a strategic significance not only because it gives you the best view of the surrounding territory but it also separates Nueva Ecija and Nueva Vizcaya provinces. From here began our journey on zig-zag roads much longer than Kennon in Baguio (nearly 100 km. vs. Kennon's 36 km). We reached Santa Fe in Nueva Vizcaya at 8:45 a.m. where we took our breakfast at Golden Rose Restaurant and Hotel, also graciously accepted our Shell-Citibank MasterCard.

After the meal, we proceeded further north, passing the capital towns of Bayombong and Solano where an active citrus industry flourished. Our group stopped by to check the citrus varieties peddled at the roadside—Perante, Ponkan, Zatuzima, Pomelo, and Calamansi, among others. "We used to buy some of these from abroad, but now we are growing them here," says the ever-informative Anton.

Solano was also where we filled up our gas tanks once more. Nelle Guerrero of the Solano Shell Station even prepared assorted *kakanin* and *suman*, which the group highly appreciated. We continued with our journey until we reached the junction at Bagabag, still in Nueva Viscaya. At this point, we exited the main highway and proceeded northwest towards Banaue in the province of Ifugao.

VELOCITY
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A place of wonder

It was already high noon when we arrived at the Banaue Hotel, where our Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCards were easily accepted as we looked for rooms. "Most hotels even at this far-off place accept Citibank credit cards, so you don't have to worry about accommodation and food," informs Sonya. After lunch we headed to Bangaan. But first we stopped by at a shop along the road to buy native handicrafts and other souvenir items.

It was already raining when we continued our drive to Bangaan. The torrent could have caused the landslide that blocked our way just a few kilometers from where we should have jumped off. We went back and instead proceeded to Hapao, where equally breathtaking rice terraces were also located. Most terraces here in Banaue, including Hapao, were already inscribed in the Unesco World Heritage List as "living cultural landscapes". I was informed that the Hapao rice terraces were among some of the oldest structures in the region. Looking at this engineering feat, I was just amazed at how the Ifugaos were able to preserve the terraces for more than 2,000 years.

Not contented with just standing at the view deck, some of us even went down to the rice fields to see for ourselves the technical wizardry of the rice fields up close. The rice stalks were still young and our guide told us they would be ready for harvest in two months' time. From our spot 200 meters above, we could clearly hear Hapao River's raging currents. Anton told us the river was perfect for kayaking, but we were not about to try the currents. Not yet.

Since it was already getting dark and the clouds were just about ready for another round of heavy downpour, we headed back to our hotel. We had to sleep early for our morning trip to Tuguegarao.

Of caves and kayaks

We left Banaue Hotel early in the morning for Tuguegarao in Cagayan using the same road to the junction in Bagabag. At this point we headed northeast, passing the city of Santiago in Isabela. We then proceeded north on a new highway (parallel to the old Maharlika) passing the Mallig Plains—the rice granary of the Cagayan Valley. Driving through the plains of Isabela offered spectacular views of rolling hills, plateaus, rice fields and seemingly endless pastures separating the Cordillera and Sierra Madre mountain ranges. Describing the drive though the region as awe-inspiring is an understatement. The view from both sides going to Tuguegarao was so unlike any other place—it reminded me of that place in "Far and Away", where Tom Cruise's character finally settled down to live with wife Nicole Kidman.

By 9:30 a.m. we were in Tuguegarao. We crossed the famed Buntun Bridge, the country's longest before the title was claimed by the San Juanico Bridge in Samar and Leyte. Before heading straight to our hotel rooms, we went first to a Shell service station along Balzain Highway for another gas up.

Hotel Lorita was located in Rizal Street at the heart of Tuguegarao. We could have stayed longer in our rooms but we had to go ahead for our afternoon activity. After a short freshening up, we headed to nearby Penablanca, a neighboring municipality home to more than 300 caves. The most popular of which is the Callao Caves, to where we were to proceed.

The majority of the 300 caves and a part of the river are found inside what is called The Penablanca Protected Landscape. Though the Sierra Cave offered spectacular stalactite and stalagmite formations, we had to cut short our spelunking to give way to kayaking, which would take up the entire afternoon. We had to give up spelunking too soon, but not before I crawled inside one of the smallest crevices they called Celica's Passage. The passage just barely allowed my body to fit in, so I had to worm myself inside the cramped and moist passage. Nobody else, except one lady, dared to enter the passage after they saw me come out all muddied up all over Though brief, we had a great time inside the only gated cave in the Philippines. "The gate limits the degradation of the place, thus protecting the structures and fauna living inside," explains our cave guide.

After caving, we rode a motorized banca and went up the Pinacanauan River where, along its bank, we set up camp. After feasting on barbecues, Anton conducted a short clinic on basic whitewater kayaking. From the campsite, we proceeded up river some three km away where we began our kayaking

WHAT WE DID/ D5

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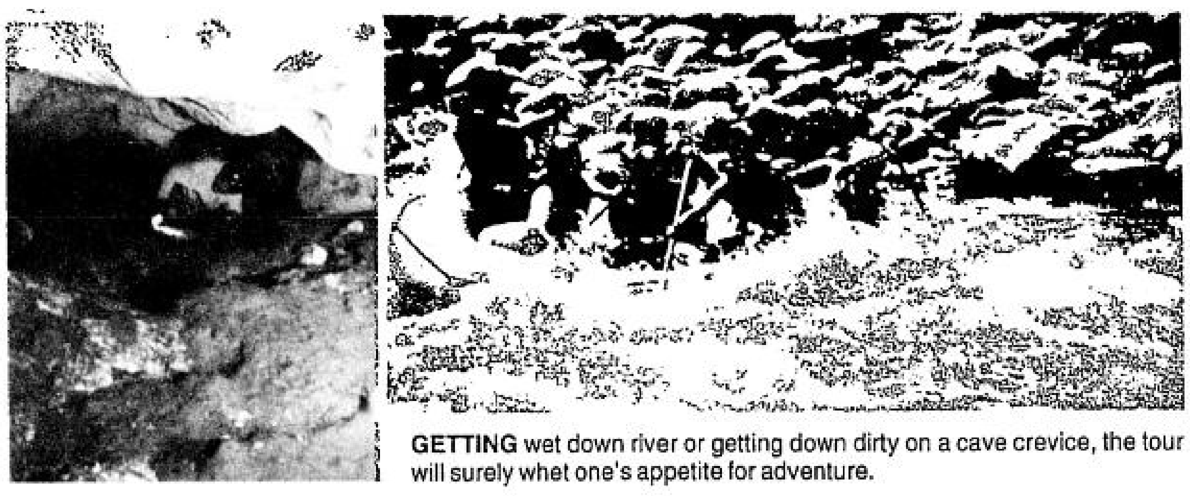
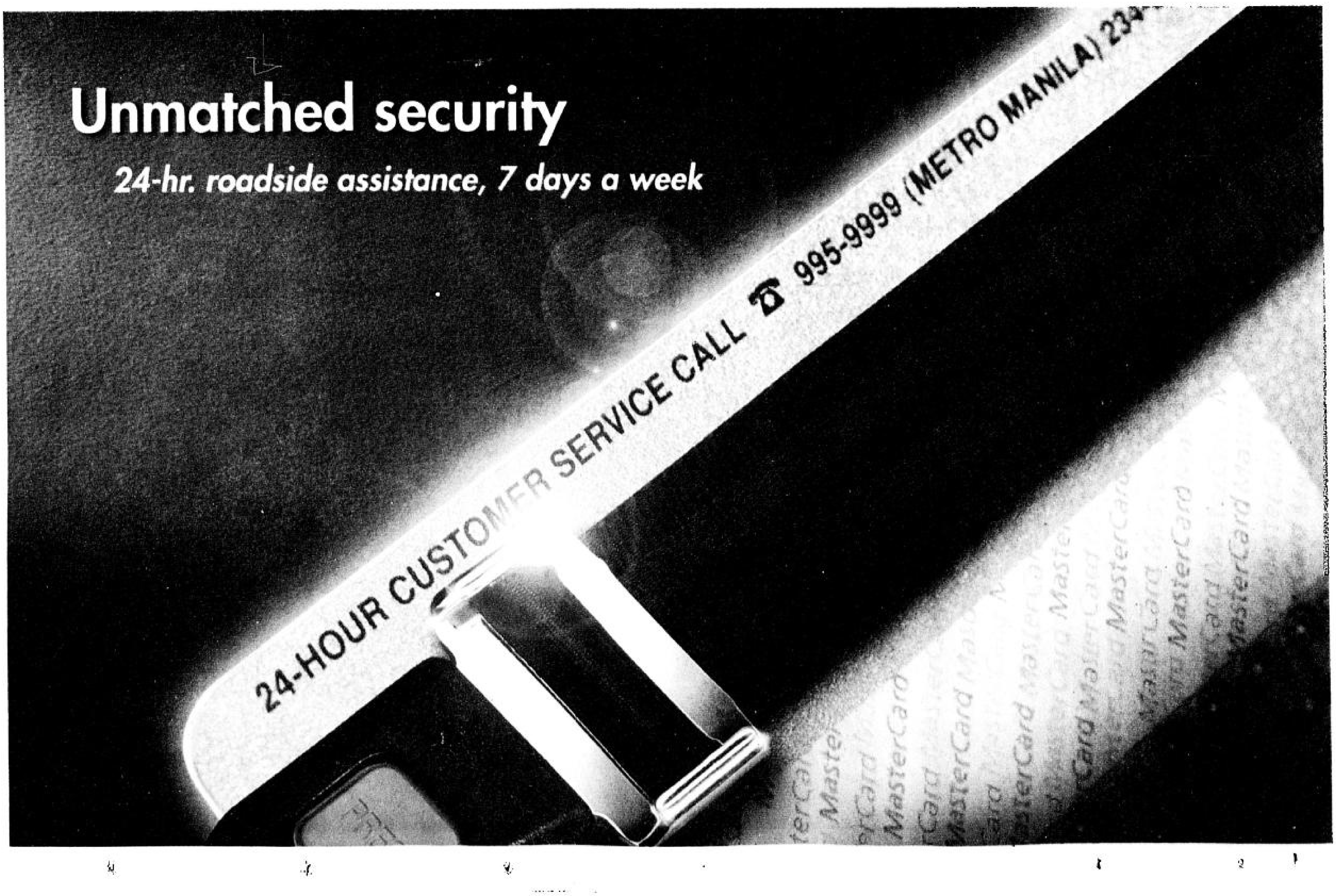


GETTING wet down river or getting down dirty on a cave crevice, the tour will surely whet one's appetite for adventure.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(From page D4)

amidst the backdrop of the Sierra Madre Range. The water was a little shallow. Just the same, though, we were all reminded on river safety before we began our run. When our group returned to the riverbank campsite, some of us still went to a nearby wall to rappel from a 30-ft. wall. With harness on, we learned how to trust our life and limbs to just a sturdy rope and a carabiner.

It was already 6 p.m. and we were just in time for the circadian flight of hundreds of thousands of bats that lived in small caves in the tall cliffs around the river. Anton informed us that a guano industry had been flourishing in the area, thanks to these flying mammals. Next stop was at Anton's place in Tuguegarao, where we enjoyed home-cooked dinner. Special mention went to the crispy deep fried hito that was eaten without leftovers. We returned to Lorita Hotel and watched the NBA play-off on cable TV, the only reminder that night that I was still an urban denizen.

The next morning, we departed for Pasil, Kalinga for the third day's only activity—whitewater rafting. The almost three hour drive from Tuguegarao led us through narrow and rough roads leading to Pasil from Tabuk in Kalinga. The lengthy trip treated us to a lot of panoramic views.

River wild

We could see Chico River below as we went further up to Tinglayan where we began our whitewater rafting adventure. We passed by the infamous Chico River Dam Project. "Infamous" because, as Anton narrated, the Marcos government in the '70s planned to construct a series of three dams along the length of the river that would supply the whole North with ample electricity. But because it would flood thousands of hectares of ancestral and sacred lands, Kalinga natives led by tribal chieftain Macling Dulag resisted. "He was assassinated for it. But his death only brought more opposition that pressured the government to yield," Anton recounts. "Today only that overflow dam exists at the lower section of the river in Tabuk."

ANTON of AEPI, the tour's outfitter, makes sure the participants are ready before they set off the course.

Upon reaching the start up point, Anton and his AEPI crew inflated three yellow 18-foot rafts. While they were at it, we went to the riverbank and scouted the currents. The water seemed gentle even if it rained the other day. We were informed that at this time of the month the water volume was a lot lower compared to the rainy months when water would rise so high only experienced rafters were advised to run the length of the river.

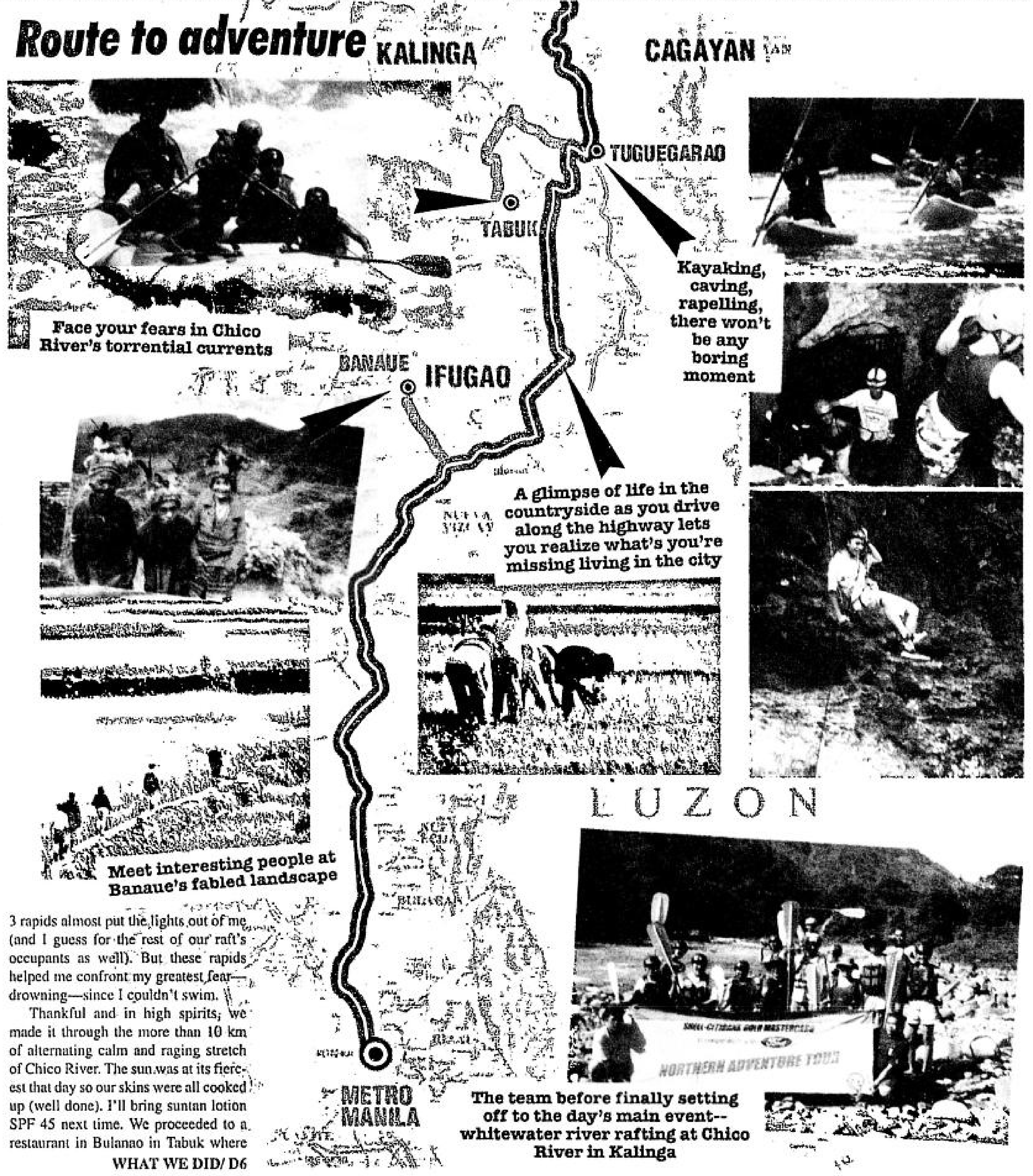
This seeming calmness convinced me to join the rafting that late morning—the rapids wouldn't be so menacing, I thought, and the rafts were big and would be steady throughout the trip. When we began the run and went through some several sections of roiling water—some churning 5 to 6 feet of waves—my opinion changed. I had no choice but to row as hard as I could and brace myself when the waves came bashing in.

During the briefing earlier, Anton told us that this particular section of the river had one Class 4 rapids, which meant our raft would have to make successive maneuvers in order to get through right side up. There were also a few level 3 rapids along the way. "Further up this river, which we will not be able to see, lie some Class 5 and more Class 4 rapids whose waves can churn up mountains of foam which I know you wouldn't like to ride through and we won't let you, since it's dangerous," says Anton. He had a point. After all, this was just a fun tour and we had no death wish. By the way, the highest difficulty level possible on a river is a Class 6 and 7, and I'm sure I won't be in any raft on that river.

I would never forget the rapid sections they called God's Playground and Argel's Nightmare. These Class 4 and 3 rapids almost put the lights out of me (and I guess for the rest of our raft's occupants as well). But these rapids helped me confront my greatest fear—drowning—since I couldn't swim.

Thankful and in high spirits, we made it through the more than 10 km of alternating calm and raging stretch of Chico River. The sun was at its fiercest that day so our skins were all cooked up (well done). I'll bring suntan lotion SPF 45 next time. We proceeded to a restaurant in Bulanao in Tabuk where

WHAT WE DID/ D6



Route to adventure

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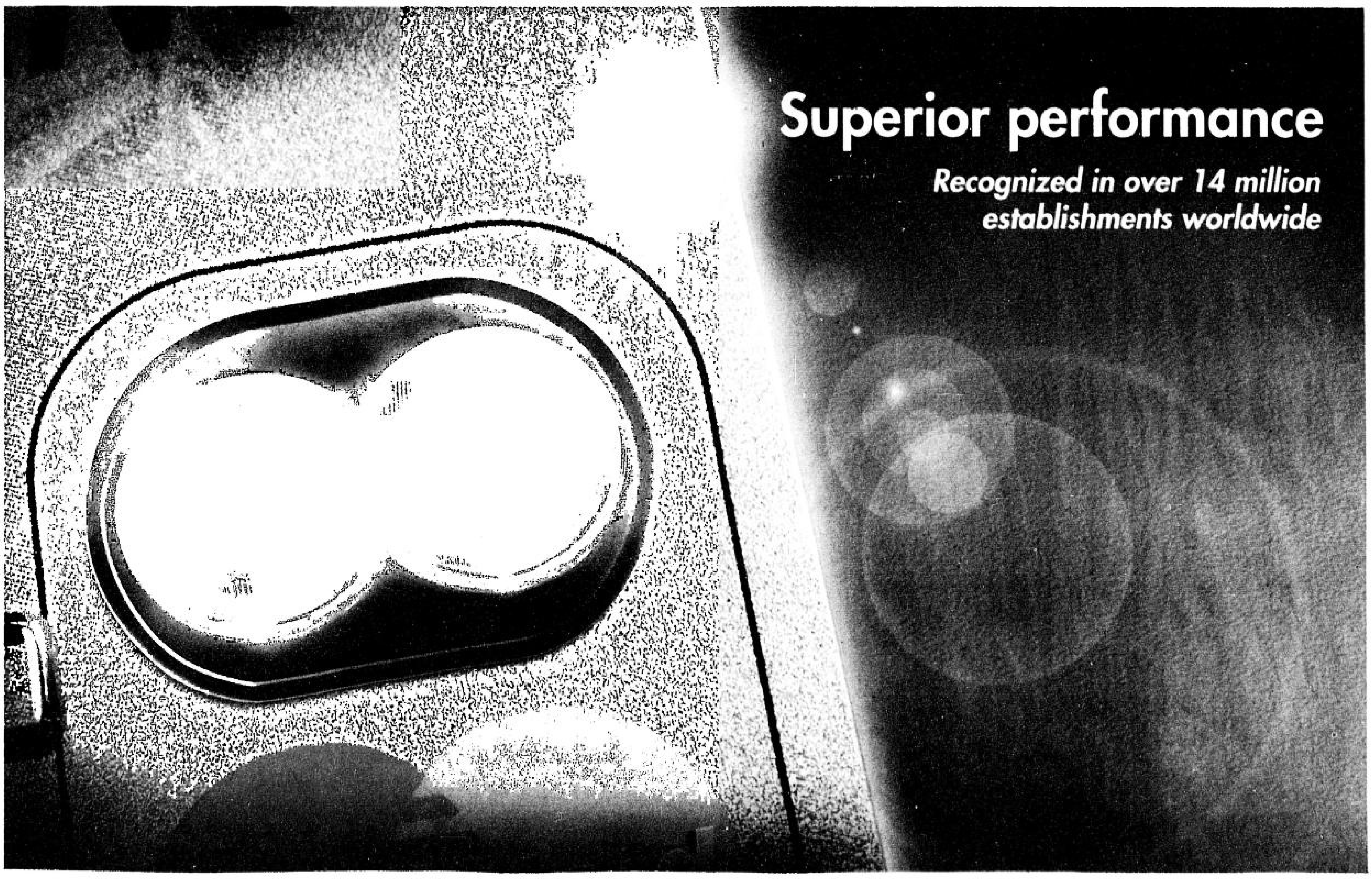
Meet interesting people at Banaue's fabled landscape

The team before finally setting off to the day's main event--whitewater river rafting at Chico River in Kalinga



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What we did in the last days of summer

(From page D5)

we were treated to sumptuous Ilocano dishes with its centerpiece Pinakbet.

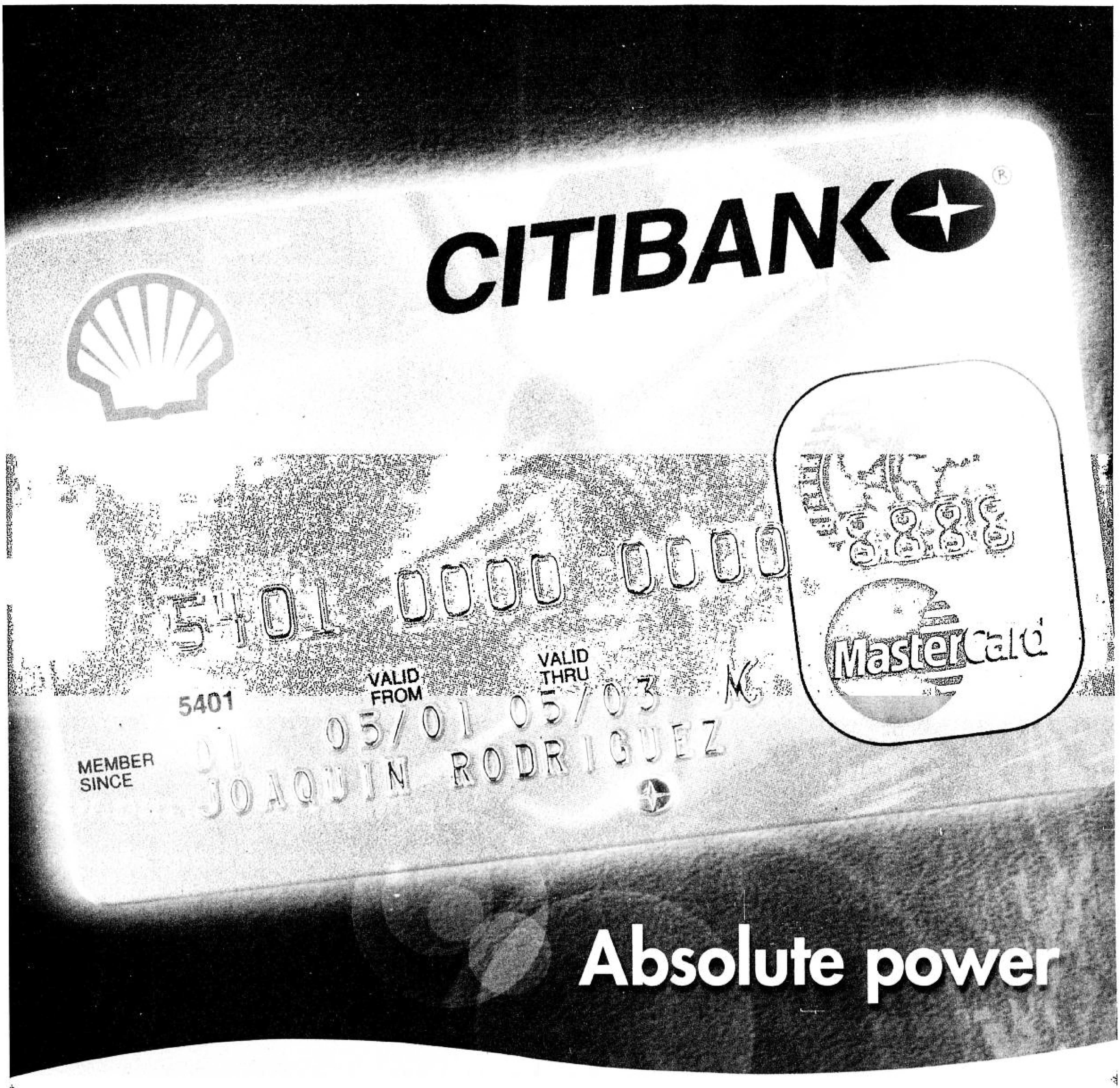
The rafting was the tour's last activity. Though we were so exhausted, deep inside we wished this to be the tour's first day. After all, we were just beginning to enjoy each other's company. But we had to go home. Manila was 10 hours away. We had to start packing up to catch up with work at the office the next day.

Going home, we took the same route: From Pasil, we went back to Santiago City in Isabela to fill up our tanks with Shell superior fuel. Good thing there were ample Shell stations in the area.

Going back home, I thought back at all the adventures I had for the past three days. Anton told me adventure trips like these would cost thousands of pesos, but the experience would definitely be priceless. "Products like these can only be made possible through strong partnerships between the likes of Shell and Citibank. From this initial tour, Citibank, Shell and Ford through outfitters like us could develop a series of land-based trips," says Anton.

"Travel isn't exactly cheap and easy nowadays. But then again, you don't really have to go very far to have an enjoyable trip. We should be looking forward. Within in a couple of months we intend to do a southern Luzon run as well as one in the Visayas," says Del Rosario.

That, I wouldn't want to miss.



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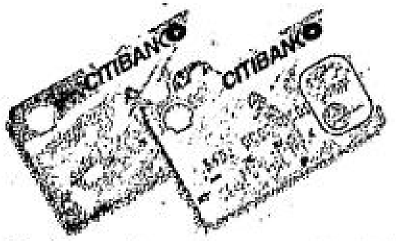

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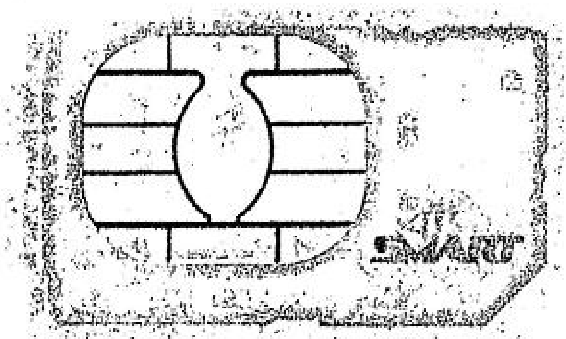

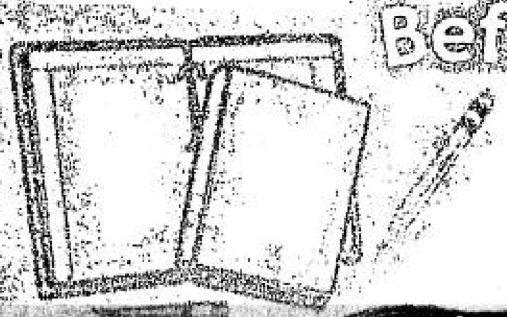

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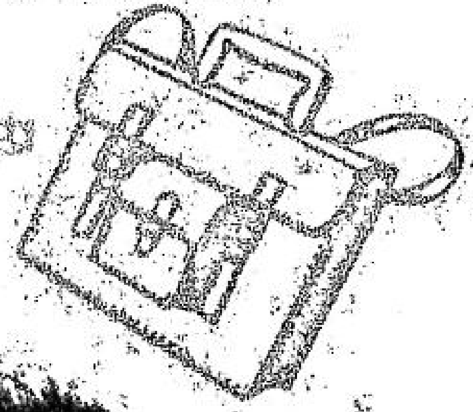

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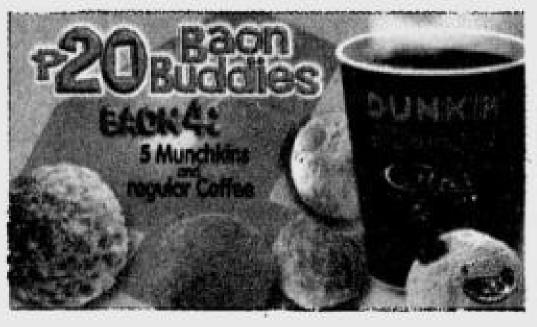

The Cuban conservation experience

SPACED OUT

Augusto F. Villalon

THE INSTITUTO Cervantes has brought an international event to Café Havana in Remedios Circle, a photo exhibit of Havana by Spanish photographer Kike Calvo. The exhibit is one of those rare events that illustrate how our shared Spanish heritage makes the Filipino resonate in so many Latino cities. Havana is one of them.

Havana does seem to be in mind these days. A New York colleague, a Filipino preservation architect Roz Li, who is the principal architect of her own New York City firm, sent an account of her recent visit to Cuba that tells the silent story of the Calvo photos.

Read her piece reprinted below, go to the Instituto Cervantes exhibit "Habana Bonita" before it closes on June 15 and see how well Havana fits into the Pinoy mind. Most of all see how Cuba is so aware that it is her heritage that makes the country unique in the world. That's not the way heritage is looked at in the Philippines. We have serious lessons to learn from Cuba.

"Four weeks ago I was in Havana as part of a small delegation of New York preservationists invited by the Cuban government. The group consisted of the Board of Directors and staff members of the New York Landmarks Conserv-

THE CUBAN/ p.E2

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SIA'S KRISWORLD: BRINGING IN-FLIGHT ENTERTAINMENT TO THE NEXT LEVEL

"In-flight entertainment" used to just mean browsing through in-flight magazines or playing Solitaire. Children, on the other hand, used to content themselves with coloring books or – to the chagrin of parents and other passengers alike – amuse themselves by running up and down the aisles.

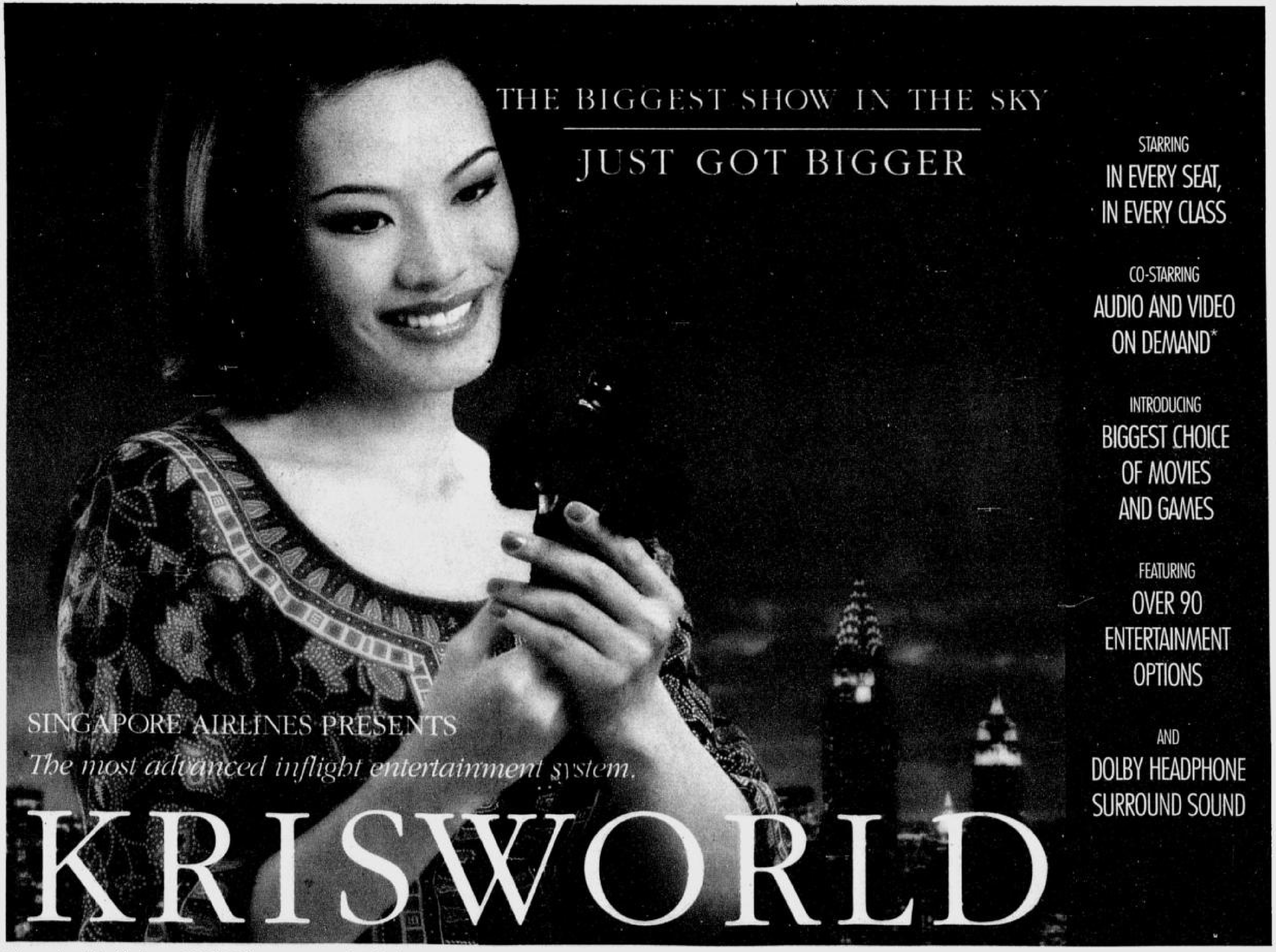
With Singapore Airlines' KrisWorld, however, in-flight fun is brought to the next level. The airline not only uses the very latest in state-of-the-art technology, it also now offers passengers a wider variety of entertainment features to choose from – 90, to be exact. These include the latest Hollywood blockbuster movies – in DVD quality at that – as well as television hits, interactive games, the widest selection of music, and satellite news.

With KrisWorld, passengers can now play multi-player network PC games with other passengers no matter where they are seated, including Nintendo games (currently with 25 titles, including popular Pokemon titles). This should be great news for parents who constantly worry about their children getting restless and fretful especially on long flights.

KrisWorld also now features *Wisemen*, SIA's audio and video on-demand system, on all three classes. Through *Wisemen*, SIA makes available to customers the widest choice of audio and video programmes in the air. So whether they are on First, Raffles or New Economy Class, passengers on SIA can now sit back and enjoy watching over 50 of their favorite hit movies or listen to over 100 CD albums in the comforts of their own seats. All KrisWorld headsets are also provided with Dolby surround sound quality, so no matter what the sound effects are – be it the swirling wind of a hurricane, bullets whizzing past, or even the resounding echoes in a canyon – the Dolby headsets contribute tremendously to the enjoyment of a movie.

What's more, every passenger's KrisWorld handset doubles as personal in-seat telephone. KrisFone allows passengers to make calls to virtually anywhere in the world, via a global satellite network. They can also make seat-to-seat calls free of charge. With KrisFone, passengers can call a loved one, close a business deal or make a dinner reservation, anywhere in the world...at the touch of a button.

Enjoy KrisWorld while being pampered by the other aspects of Singapore Airlines' renowned in-flight service – choice of gourmet meals, free-flowing champagne, and relaxing seats. Let Singapore Airlines bring you to your destination the best – and most entertaining way –they can.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A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

The Cuban conservation experience

(From page E1)

ancy (a nonprofit preservation organization) and three private consultants: myself (a preservation architect), a builder-consultant who specializes in vertical access and a conservator.

"Our mission was to exchange information regarding the restoration/adaptive-use of religious structures as additional resources for the expanded tourism that Cuba is gearing up for to boost their ailing economy. As it turns out, Cuban preservationists are quite technically proficient. Sadly, lack of resources prevents their full implementation of their knowledge.

"I could not believe my good fortune in being part of this delegation. Although I knew about Cuba's historic resources, what I saw exceeded my imagination. Most everything in Havana is in disrepair. It is actually dangerous to walk on some streets due to the risk of a building collapse.

Grandeur

"The grandeur and cohesiveness of the urban fabric is evident. Havana's extraordinarily rich architectural heritage spans various historical periods—from Spanish colonial, American colonial (their Capitolio is a replica of the US Capitol in Washington, D.C.), Art Nouveau, Art Deco, Modernist—the whole range. And the buildings are still there, one of the mixed blessings of poverty.

"Old Havana (La Habana Vieja) was declared a World Heritage Site in the 1980s. Havana is typically described as frozen in time, with 1950s cars on the streets, but it is more decayed than frozen. Cuban preservationists have a lot on their hands. Everyone is aware that only a small percentage of the buildings can be saved, since there is not enough money nor time to restore everything. It is so heartbreaking to see what will be lost.

"Being in Havana, I could not help constantly comparing Cuba with the Philippines. We have a shared history of being under Spain and the US. However, the Philippines was never as wealthy as Cuba. The Philippines was a remote outpost for Spain while Cuba was more central to the Spanish economy. A lot more Spaniards migrated to Cuba and the slave trade (which did not get to the Philippines) was a major source of Cuban wealth.

"The parallels between the two countries are striking in their struggle for independence from the two colonial powers, and their problems after gaining independence—feudal structure, corrupt leaders, abusive military. Then Cuba had its revolution and now has a controlled system of government while the Philippines is free and democratic. Present status? Of course, this is based on just a week's visit, but I think from the perspective of the majority population (excluding the small Filipino middle class and elite), the Cubans and the Filipinos are not that far apart in their poverty. The Cubans have free, excellent education and health care for everyone, which we cannot say about the Philippines. But Filipinos are free to say anything they want and can complain in public.

Remarkable

"Cubans are remarkable. In spite of their poverty, they live life fully. Good music is everywhere permeating every corner of the city. Though the economy is quite depressed, the people do not seem to be. It was interesting to hear a board member of our group (she manages her family's philanthropic foundation) who kept saying that perhaps we Americans have gotten it all totally wrong by being so uptight—maybe we should live more like the Cubans.

"In terms of preservation, the Philippines could benefit from information exchanges with Cuba. The architecture and the restoration issues are similar. That a country as poor as Cuba can set up a center for conservation with training facilities is so impressive. Our host was Cencrem (Centro Nacional de Conservacion Restauracion y Museologica). Even the US does not have anything like this. Housed in a block-long historic convent, the Convento de Santa Clara, Cencrem has under one roof, experts in the conservation of buildings, fine arts, textiles, paper, metals, etc. There are conservation laboratories, although the equipment has not kept up with more recent technological advances.

"Cuba being a planned society, it is interesting to see how preservation is organized and implemented in contrast with free market societies. Decision-making for preservation in Cuba is locally based, done through Provincial Monuments Commissions under the guidance of the National Commission of Monuments, which determines budgets and establishes preservation standards.

Community improvement

"A remarkable aspect of Cuban preservation policy is that whenever a budget is established for a site, the money is apportioned not only for the preservation of landmark buildings, but includes community improvement such as housing rehab or sewer and road repairs. Preservation is done in a wider context as part of a larger effort to improve the quality of life and environment for the area's population. While this benefits more people, it appears that budgeting for preservation is complicated by concerns for community infrastructure.

"Old Havana has a special Office of the Historian headed by Eusebio Leal Spengler, who is responsible for urban conservation and infrastructure. The Office does not receive a budget from the government. Instead, it receives 5 percent of all commercial activity within the historic zone, from tourism, real estate development, museums and shops.

"Revenue producing projects, such as adaptive-use of buildings as hotels and restaurants, are bringing in much needed dollars. This revenue is then allocated to more preservation projects and to provide decent housing for its inhabitants. The scarcity of housing in Havana is evident from the way people have subdivided old buildings, packing so many families in former mansions or convents.

"We toured a lot of their churches. The older churches (dating from 1650-1780) are very similar to some of our old Philippine churches. One had a statue of the Virgin Mary brought from the Philippines. Some churches obtain money directly from their congregations or from church organizations abroad. In such cases, the government has less control of the preservation process. Seeing how frustrated our hosts were with some of the priests intent on modernizing the interiors of their historic churches was so familiar!

Documentation

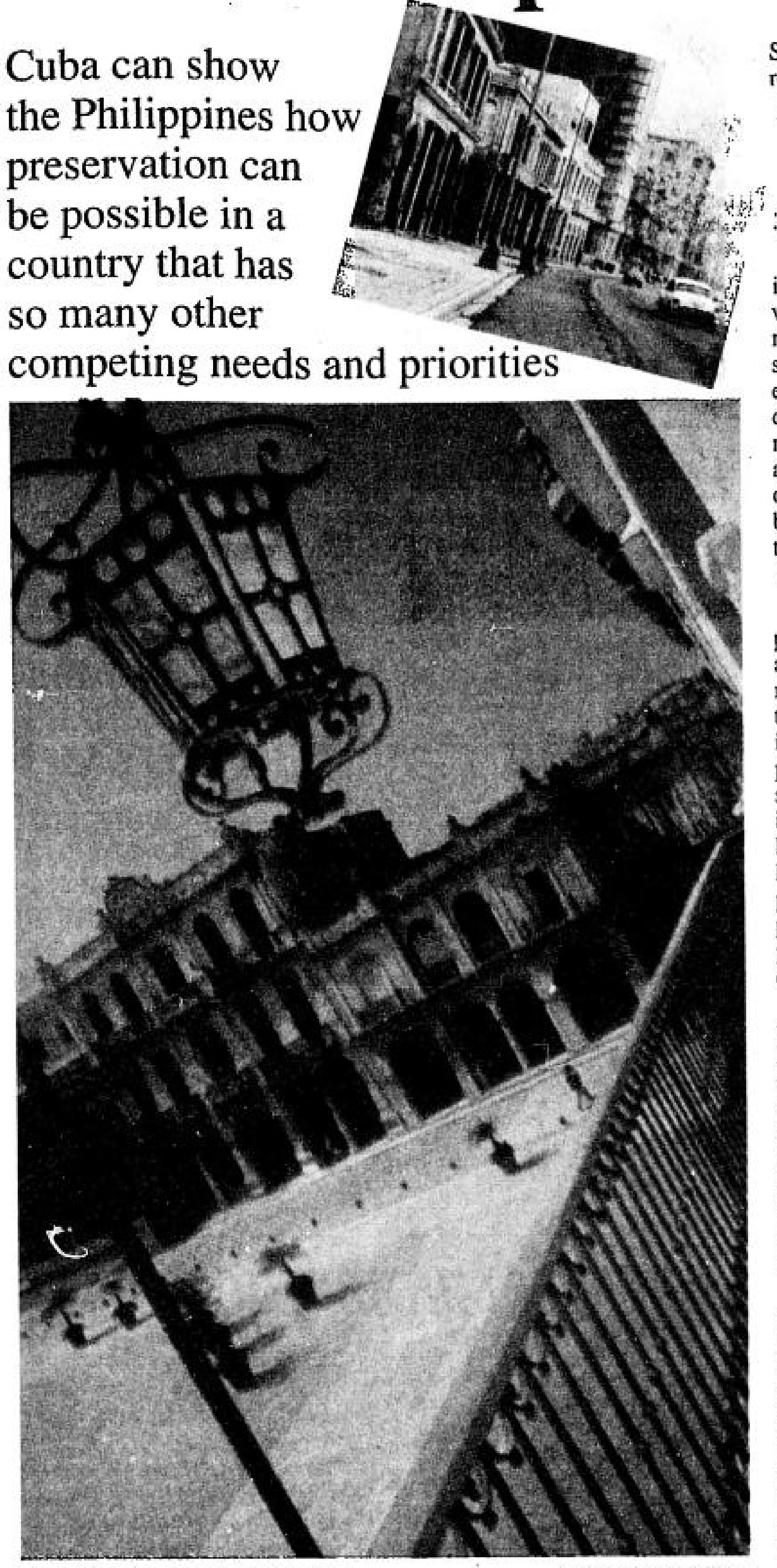
"Surprisingly, Cuba lacks a historic survey or documentation program. We discussed this with them but its priority is low. There is no equivalent of the US National Register of Historic Places or the Historic American Building Survey, where thousands of historic buildings and sites have been systematically researched, measured, drawn, computerized and archived. This is a monumental undertaking, but it is an invaluable planning tool—in understanding the extent of the country's historic resources and setting priorities.

"For Cuba, it is even more essential, since many of the buildings will be lost over time and there will not be any records. In the Philippines, the survey and documentation of historic buildings is a project which needs to be expanded. I know that there was one started in Vigan years ago.

"What Filipino preservationists can learn from the Cubans is to see how preservation can be possible in a country that has so many other competing needs and priorities. Granted that Cuba has some advantage in having an internationally recognized, richer architectural heritage and its government has more muscle power to implement preservation policy there than in a free market society, I still think there are lessons which could be useful for promoting historic preservation in the Philippines."

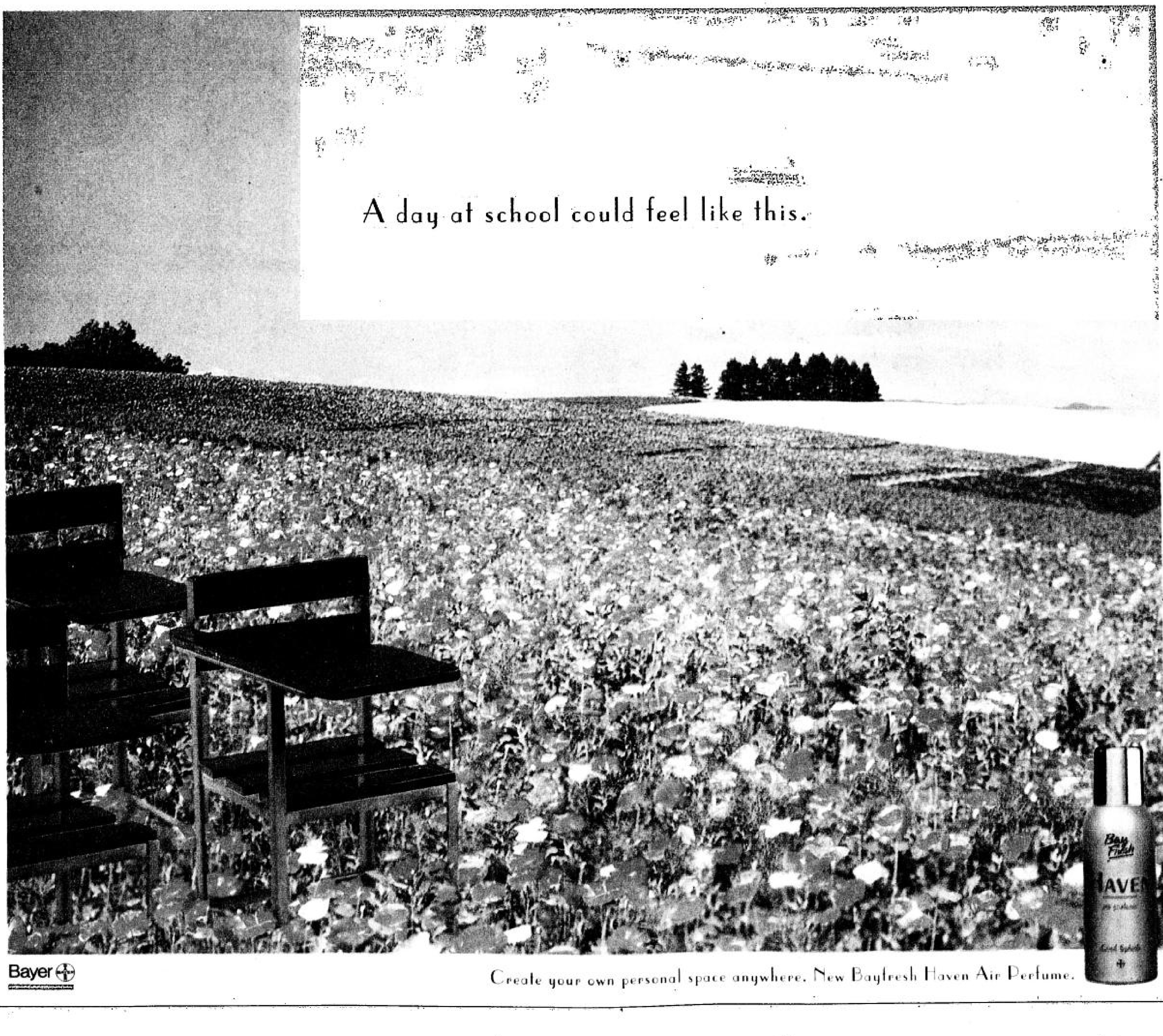
E-mail the author at afv@pacific.net.ph

> Cuba can show the Philippines how preservation can be possible in a country that has so many other competing needs and priorities



PLAZA Vieja. (inset: El Malecon)

PHOTOS BY: KIKE CALVO



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12 promises of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

I NEVER thought that in my lifetime I would be able to see the incorrupt body of St. Mary Margaret Alacoque that laid in the chapel where Jesus Christ appeared to her in the 17th century to tell her to spread the devotion to His Sacred Heart. That was in Nov. 13, 1997 when I went with travel agents on a FAM tour of pilgrim sites in Europe courtesy of Air France and Tac Tours.

We walked from our hotel in Paray Le Monial to the church, which was called The Chapel of the Apparitions. A mural of the first apparition was painted on the wall behind the altar and we looked up to it as Fr. Gene Castañeda said Mass. Francisco Sevilla acted as sacristan. After the Mass, we prayed to St. Margaret at the right side of the church, asking her to help us be as devoted to the Sacred Heart as she was.

It was at that time, I think, that I truly developed a devotion. Before that I never gave importance to this practice. In time I came to learn more about the devotion, especially the 12 promises that Jesus dictated to St. Mary Margaret for the devotee who will be faithful to Him.

This piece on the promises was prompted by a call from a reader, Gloria Gomez, who asked me if I would write about them.

The promises are: 1) I will give them all the graces necessary for their state of life; 2) I will give peace in their families; 3) I will console them in all their troubles; 4) They shall find in My heart an assured refuge during life and especially at the hour of death; 5) I will pour abundant blessings on all their undertakings; 6) Sinners shall find in My heart the source of infinite ocean of mercy; 7) Tepid souls shall become fervent; 8) Fervent souls shall speedily rise to great perfection; 9) I will bless the homes in which the image of My Sacred Heart shall be exposed and honored; 10) I will give the priests the power to touch the most hardened hearts; 11) Those who propagate this devotion shall have their name written in My Heart, and it shall never be effaced; and 12) The all-powerful love of My Heart will grant to all those who shall receive communion on the First Friday of nine consecutive months the grace of final repentance; they shall not die under My displeasure, not without receiving their sacraments; My Heart shall be their assured refuge at the last hour.

St. Mary Margaret writes in her journal: "The devotion to the Sacred Heart was the last effort of Jesus' love that He would grant to men in these latter ages, in order to withdraw them from the empire of Satan, which He desires to destroy, and thus introduce them into the sweet liberty of the rule of His love, which He wished to restore in the hearts of all those who should embrace this devotion."

THE AUTHOR before the body of St. Mary Margaret Alacoque in Paray Le Monial

AAP national level holds fiesta

THE NATIONAL level of the Apostleship of Prayer (AAP) is holding a nine-day novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in different churches at 12 nn until June 21. The theme is "The Sacred Heart in the Beginning of the New Millennium." The fiesta Mass on June 22 at 12 nn will be held in Malate Church. Msgr. Emmanuel Sunga, archdiocesan director, will officiate the Mass to be concelebrated with Fr. Michael Martni, Fr. Rey Ocampo, SJ and other priests.

The president of the AAP national chapter is Susan Precilla Reyes, while the archdiocesan president is former Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office chair Rosario N. Lopez.

Mother Francisca del Espiritu Santo

DOCUMENTS in support of the beatification of Mother Francisca del Espiritu Santo are now being studied by the Vatican. The Mother Francisca Commission is now accepting testimonies of the nun's intercession for submission to the Vatican.

Mother Francisca was the founder of the Congregation of Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena in 1682. Those who need prayers can write to me. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for easier mailing.

Those who were granted favors through Mother Francisca's intercession can write to the Sta. Catalina Convent, 127 Sta. Catalina St., 1114 Quezon City.

Happy 25 years as priest

MSGR. Bayani Gardoce Valenzuela celebrated his silver anniversary as a priest on June 12 at St. Andrew's Church in La Huerta, Parañaque where he is parish priest. Friends, relatives and parishioners attended his Thanksgiving Mass at 6 p.m.

Sangay, Camarines Sur has new priest

ST. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Sangay, Camarines Sur has a new parish priest, Fr. Julio Buena. He was installed by Bishop Leonardo Legaspi on June 11.

Father Buena used to be the pastor of Cagliliog, Tinambac, also in Camarines Sur. The parish is dedicated to St. Joseph.

Fund-raising concert in Malate

THE REMEDIOS Jubilee Mission Center in Our Lady of Remedies Parish in Malate needs to be completed. A fund-raising concert is going to be held at the grounds of the Malate Church at 8 p.m., June 29. The Dawn band, Eddie Katindig and John Lesaca will be featured. For tickets, call Malate Church at 525-2395. Tickets cost P100 each.

Benefactor for college student needed

A YOUNG man taking up industrial engineering at the Mapua Institute of Technology needs a regular benefactor. Three kind readers paid for his back account of P16,947, so he could enrol again; while another gave money for his enrolment. Allan, who is in his last semester, thanks the readers who came to his rescue. But he still needs all the support he can get, so he can finish his studies. Those who want to help can beep me at Easy Call 141-020543. Thank you for your kindness.

Replica of Our Lady of La Leche needed

A REPLICA of Our Lady of La Leche to bring around in visits to churches, hospitals and private homes is needed. Those who want to help can write Remedios Gonzales at 104 Bulusan St., Mandaluyong City or call her at 531-3063. Make checks payable to Our Lady of La Leche Movement.

Our Lady intercedes for those who have difficulty conceiving a child and pregnant women wanting safe delivery, and also those who are sick.

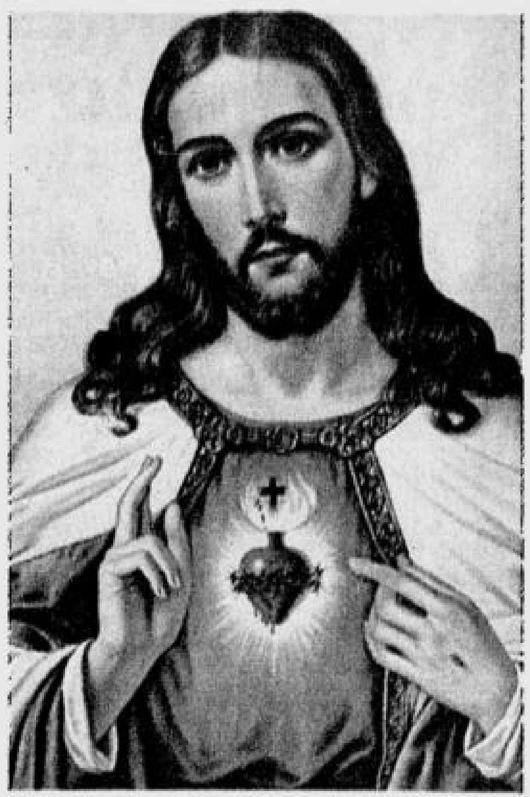
Militia de Immaculate membership

WHEN I walked into the Arpex office on May 31, there was Pura Joaquin with membership forms for the Militia de Immaculata, a movement that places us under the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary through daily renewal of consecration.

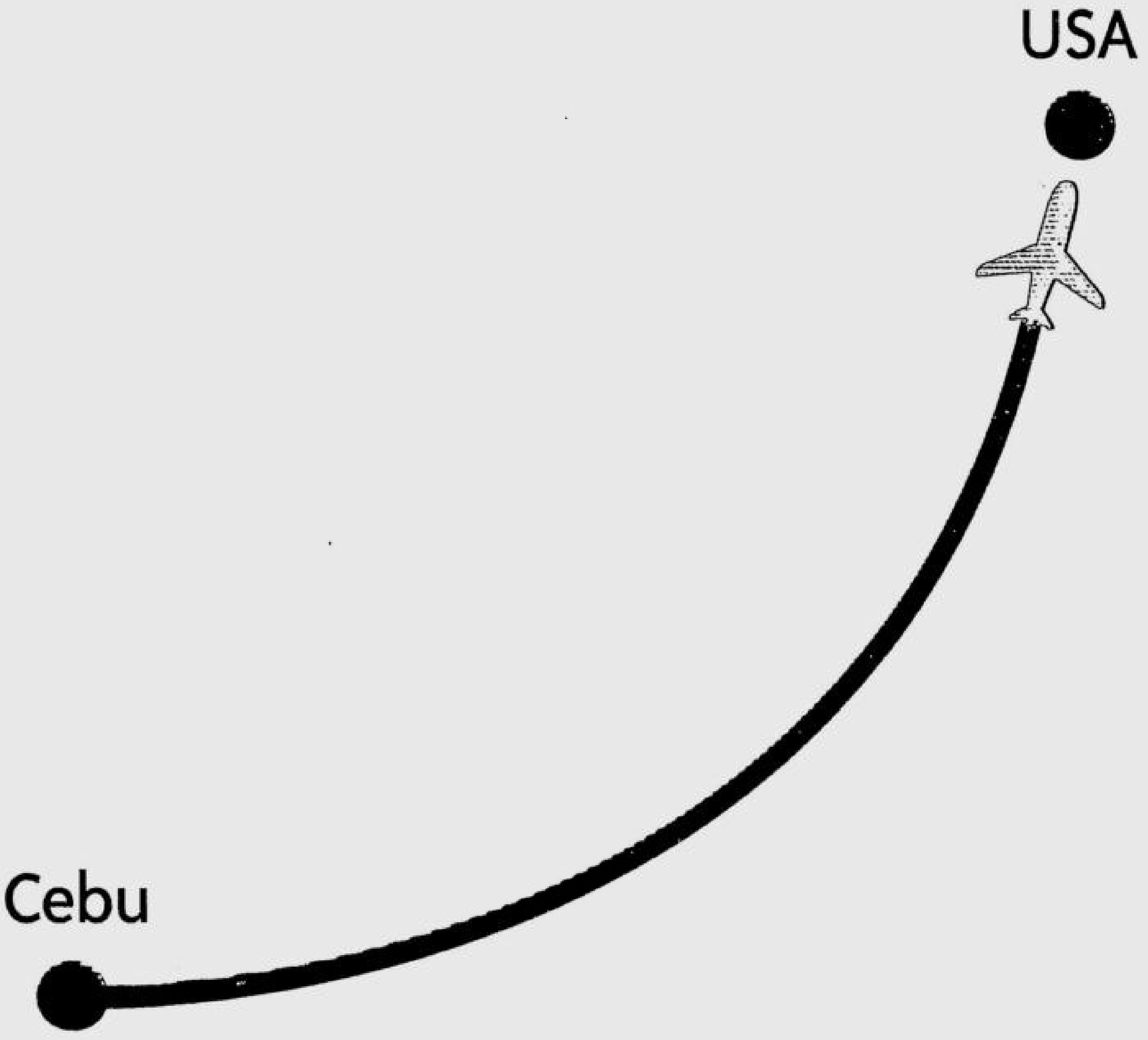
Founded by St. Maximilian Kolbe on Oct. 16, 1917, when he was still a young seminarian in Rome, the Militia was born using the Miraculous Medal as a symbol of devotion to Mary.

I will write more about this in a future column, but those who want to become members can e-mail Pura Joaquin at pcjoaquin@hotmail.com for more info or e-mail Fr. Stephen Bejo, OFMconv. at ofmcphil@tri-isys.com or call him at 826-0898.

Enrol as a member on any feast day of Mama Mary.



THE SACRED Heart of Jesus



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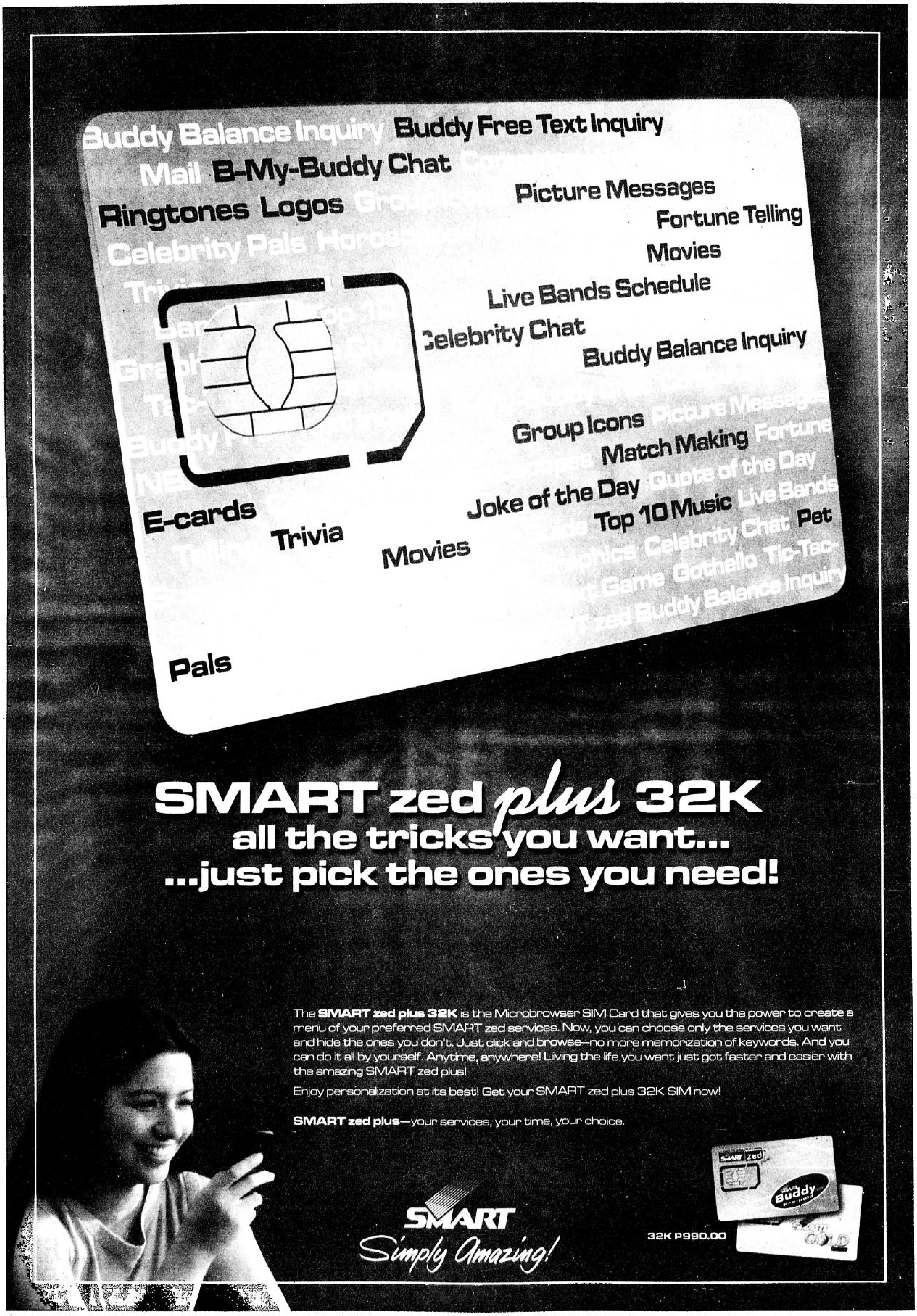
The SMART zed plus SIM card—personalization at its best!

June 17, 2001—Another milestone has been marked by cellular leader SMART Communications. Today, SMART zed unleashes a new technology that's set to change the way its subscribers use their celfones. Introducing the SMART zed plus SIM card—the first microbrowser technology SIM in the country.

SMART zed subscribers can now enjoy the endless possibilities offered by the new SMART zed plus SIM Cards, 64K and 32K. The new SIM card is a powered-up version of the current SMART zed SIM. It empowers the user to create his own SMART zed menu. Users can now choose only the services that they want. They simply activate the services that they choose and leave out the ones that they don't need. No more scrolling down a long and tedious list of services. Users can choose from a wide array of services catering to their every need: My SMART, My Favorites, Mail, Chat, News, Traffic, Entertainment, Group Text, Today, Travel, Search, My Shop and a whole lot more.

The SMART zed plus is a menu-driven SIM which means users can access the services just by browsing and clicking. They don't have to memorize keywords, giving them the power to personalize their menu in their celfones.

The new SMART zed plus SIM card – simply amazing!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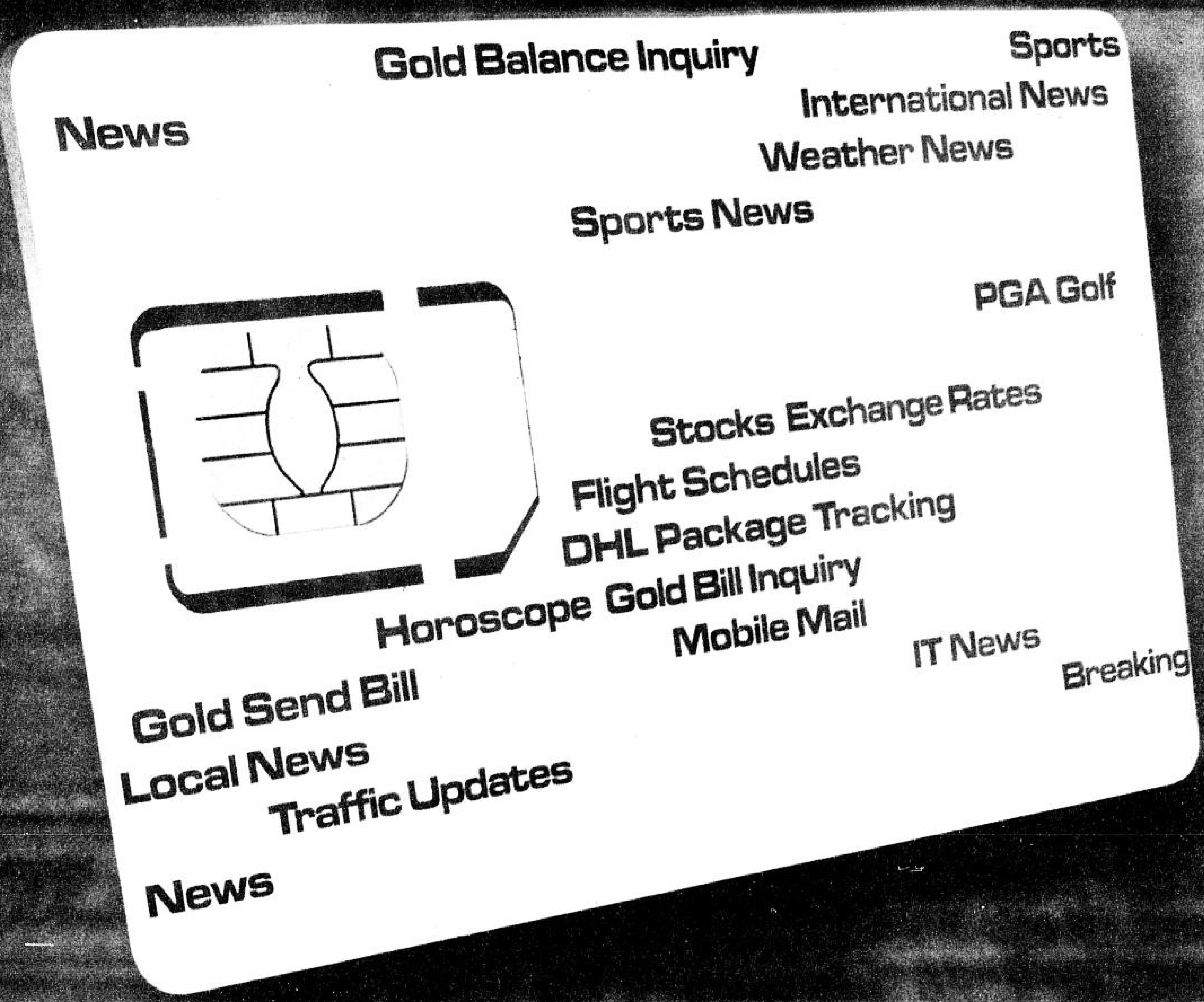
The SMART zed plus SIM card—it's easy as 1-2-3!

Creating your own personal menu with the new SMART zed plus is really easy. You can choose only the services that you want to appear in your personal menu and hide the ones that you don't. SMART zed plus is also a menu-driven SIM which means you only have to click and browse to get the services you want. No more keyword memorization.

Just click on the SMART zed menu and choose PERSONALIZE. Click on ACTIVATE and you will see the services currently available. Click on the services you want to appear in your personal menu, and your menu will be updated in no time! No more scrolling down a long and tedious list of services. Now, you're on your way to a whole new celfone experience. Just repeat the steps to add more services to your celfone.

SMART zed plus is as versatile as you are. Not only can you add the services you want, you can also hide the services that you no longer need. Just click on PERSONALIZE on your SMART zed menu. Click on DEACTIVATE and choose the services you want to hide in your personal menu. Need to take out more than one service? Just repeat the steps until you complete your list of preferred services.

Create your own kind of fun now with new SMART zed plus. Simply amazing!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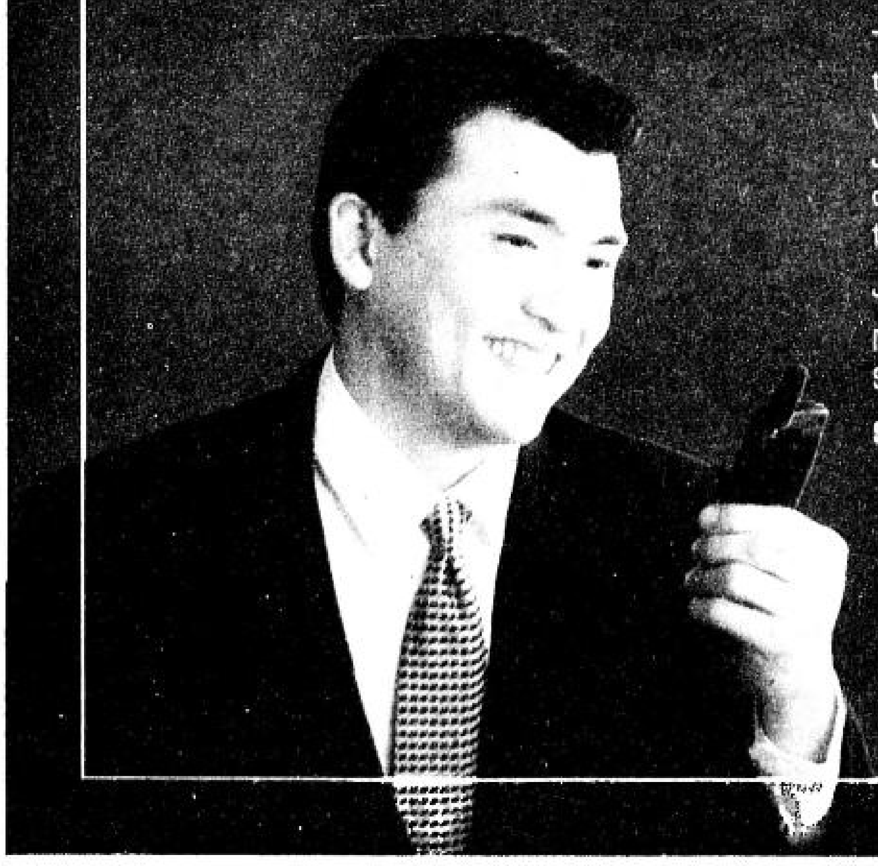

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Two at The Drawing Room

By Constantino C. Tejero

ALMOST in defiance of the art trend now sweeping Europe, America and elsewhere, which is a postmodern return to figurative art, Cid Reyes has opened with an exhibit that harks back to modernist abstraction.

"Handumanan Series," an exhibit of Reyes' abstract pieces, is ongoing until June 20 at The Drawing Room in Metrostar Building at 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City.

The show is a tribute to preeminent Filipino abstract artists H.R. Ocampo, José Joya and Lee Aguinaldo, whose works Reyes describes as "a Philippine type of abstraction, vitalized by Western influences but imbued with an indigenous feeling for shape and color."

And, indeed, Reyes' configuration and coloration are related to Ocampo's. At first glance the viewer would be caught off-guard and think everything he sees is done in primary colors. The pieces, done in mixed media on paper, 41 cm x 57 cm and 55 cm x 71 cm, bewilder the eyes with such vibrant colors, at times too vibrant they assume the intensity of neon.

Of the 12 pieces on the white walls, two stand out for their vibrancy. No. 6 is an exuberance of orange, blue, yellow, violet, red and avocado set against a silver background, with brown lines subdividing the sumptuous masses of colors, which are larger masses than those in the other pieces.

No. 10 is similar to No. 6 but more vivid in hue. The shapes and colors look so luscious they evoke the fruits of summer with the occasional aubergines.

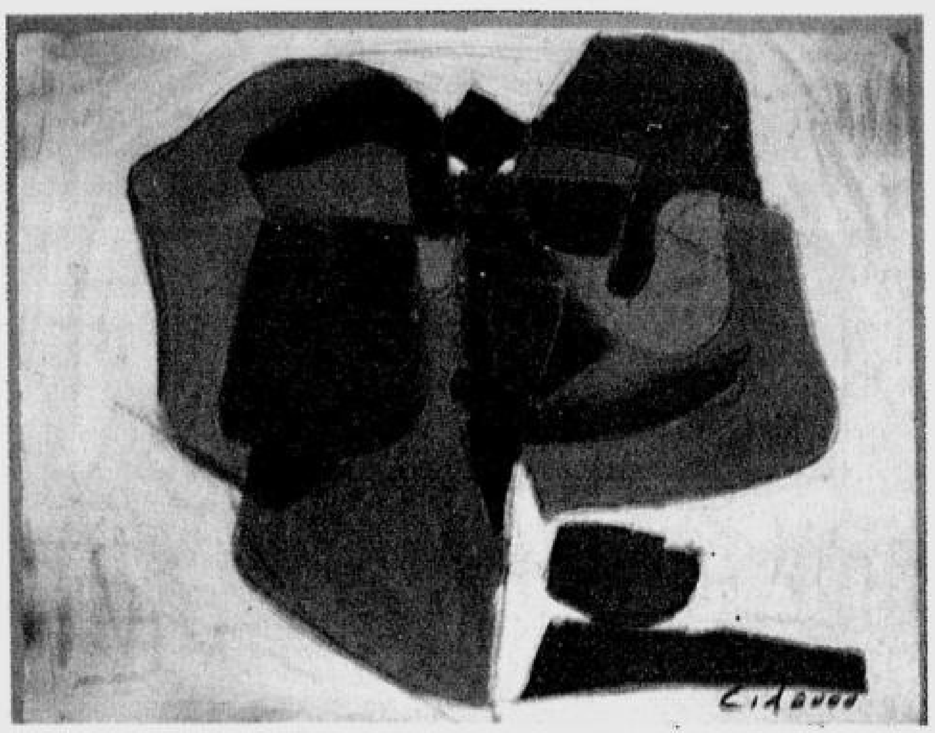
These are rather accomplished works. Remarkably, they were done by a noted art critic who has now become himself a competent artist.

In a note, Reyes says Handumanan is his adopted hometown in Negros Occidental, located within view of Mt. Kanlaon. So, throughout, we kept on looking for those tell-tale details that would reveal the locale: A semblance of terrain, perhaps, or the ripening fruits of the land, or a shivering huddle of huts.

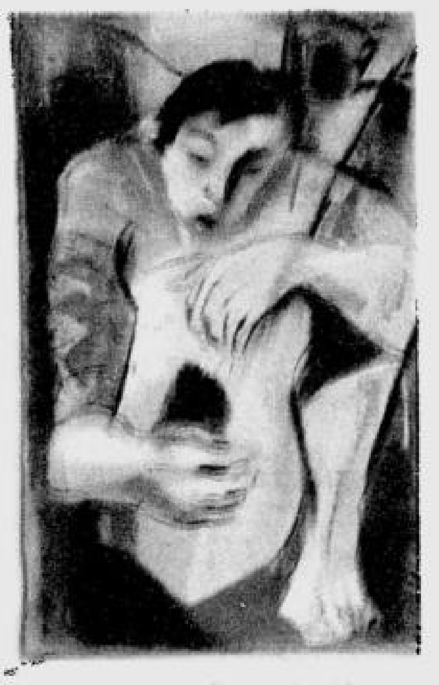
We could make out none in terms of recognizable contour. Yet the show's title is not at all misleading. As this is abstract art, it could be in the lines, shapes and colors that the artist has found valid expression.

So we presume these pieces are Reyes' feelings of sadness and joy, nostalgia and exuberance, over his adopted hometown. He translates the Ilonggo term *handumanan* as "an offering," thus in keeping with what he must have in mind, that is, a tribute to his masters, or his little Visayan town.

Actually the term refers to something a person keeps in remembrance of someone, something or some place, that is, a keepsake, souvenir or memento. Which is just as well, because, who knows, this show just might prove to be a memorial to abstraction in art.



CID Reyes' "Handumanan"



GARIBAY'S "Harana", 20 x 12.75", pastel 2000

Garibay's enigmatic portraits

THE EPONYMOUSLY titled exhibit "Garibay," also at The Drawing Room until June 20, is a series of mostly dark-toned portraits in acrylic on paper by Emmanuel Garibay.

These are sketchy or shadowy figures, expressionless or faceless, with some variations on the posture of the kiss or the embrace. Often the melding of the bodies and the fusion of hues make these untitled pieces look as though they were done in oil.

No. 1, 60 cm x 48 cm, is a Mona Lisa portrait with an enigmatic scowl, looking like a big-eyed cat, or a bulky sphinx, against an ochre background. Floating in front of her is a drinking glass and a circle which could be a glass tabletop, a pool of water, or a dislocated halo. The figure is quartered by purple and ochre lines, as if diagrammed by the artist at the moment of drafting.

No. 2, 58 cm x 41.5 cm, is a portrait of a guitar player against a background of gold, green, orange and cerulean. The perspective of the guitar makes it appear like a giant musical instrument.

No. 3, 58 cm x 41.5 cm, is a singer-guitarist with a microphone, in green, violet, black and white.

No. 4, 59 cm x 44 cm, is a variation on the posture of Rodin's "The Kiss," dominated by blue, yellow and red. What's remarkable is, while the female form is naked, the male is wearing harlequin tights.

No. 5, 60 cm x 48 cm, shows the same figures as in No. 4, in a different angle of their embrace, in orange, gold, green and white. The male is now barechested, wearing only his pants with the harlequin pattern in ochre and purple.

No. 6, 60 cm x 47.5 cm, is another male and female figures, in violet, a greenish tinge, and yellow highlights.

No. 7, 60 cm x 47.5 cm, is half-profiles of two baldheaded figures, in violet, red, orange, purple.

No. 8, 58 cm x 41.5 cm, is two baldheaded figures locked in an embrace, one massive back turned to the viewer, two giant arms entwined around a giant body. The picture is dominated by orange and yellow.

No. 9, 58 cm x 41.5 cm, is a sketchy portrait of a sad-eyed man, with brawny arms and big feet, in blue-green, yellow, red, orange, ripe pink. The figure is quartered by sharp white lines.

No. 10, 58 cm x 41.5 cm, is a Picassoesque portrait of a woman with a coffee mug, in gold, red, green, violet, yellow.

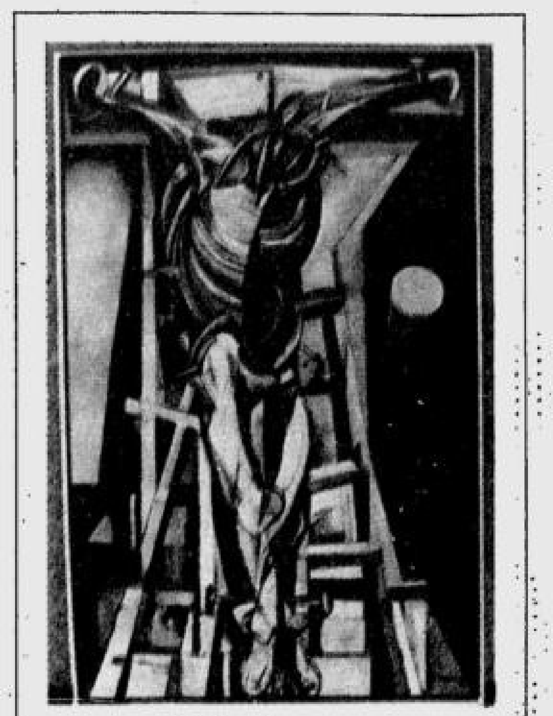
No. 11, 58 cm x 41.5 cm, is a portrait of a man, with red shadings, against a background of orange, green, violet.

No. 12, 58 cm x 41.5 cm, is the most enigmatic of the lot. It is a lean, slouching Christ with a crown of thorns, done in the drabbest monochrome of olive-green, with splotches of violet and red on the arms and face. Despite the theme of pathos, however, this Christ wears a half-smile, a sardonic look in his face, while holding a bottle of—what?—San Mig Light? This must be a character in a *cenaculo* taking a breather after a performance.

No. 13, 48 cm x 41.5 cm, is a portrait of father and son, in orange, yellow, red, lilac, white.

No. 14, 60 cm x 48 cm, is another embrace, done in light purple, white, tobacco, ochre, yellow. The picture has an

TWO/ p.E7



Tribute to Ang Kiukok

THE ATENEO Art Gallery pays homage to a major exponent of Philippine modernism in a special-feature exhibition, which opens June 25, 5:30 p.m.

Titled "Ang Kiukok at Ang Ateneo: Isang Parangal," the exhibition features 14 paintings spanning four decades—from the late 1950s to 1990. The paintings are drawn from the permanent collection of the Ateneo Art Gallery (gifts of the late Fernando Zobel de Ayala and the artist) as well as pieces loaned by private collectors among Ateneo University's faculty members and administrative officers.

A highlight of the opening program will be the premiere reading of the poem "Kristo ni Kiukok" by Dr. Benilda S. Santos, chair of the Filipino Department, Ateneo de Manila University. The work is a meditation on Ang Kiukok's "Crucifixed," oil on canvas, which the artist gave to the Ateneo Art Gallery in 1977, the year when it was painted.

Dr. Santos has won several Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for literature. She has written three books of poetry: "Pali-Palitong Posporo" (1991), "Kuwadro Numero Uno" (1996), which won a National Book Award in 1997 and "Alipato: Mga Bago at Piling Tula" (1999).

"Ang Kiukok at Ang Ateneo: Isang Parangal" is open until July 21. Admission is free. Interactive CD-ROM terminals have been provided by DPSI.

Museum hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday to Friday; 8 a.m.-12 nn, Saturday. Closed on Sundays and holidays. Call 426-6001, extension 4160.

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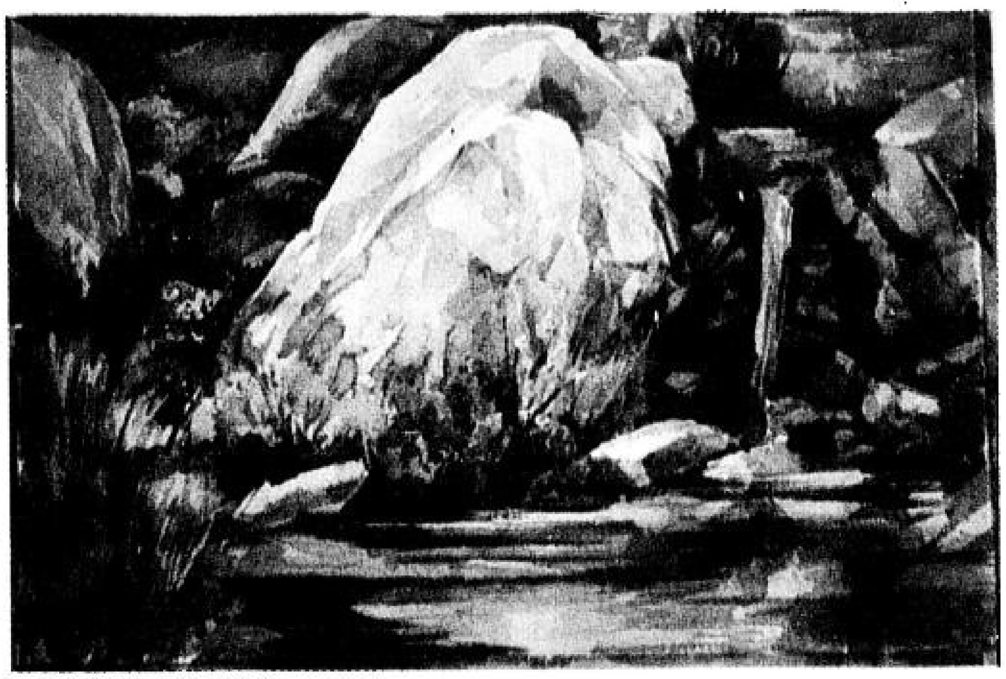
Two at The Drawing Room

(From page E6)

unfinished look that's pushed almost to the point of abstraction. The two bodies melding shows only the outlines of the man's hands, shoulder, skull and thigh, the curves of a female shoulder, arm and buttocks. Though looking quite incomplete, the figures assume the most erotic position in the lot.

What a viewer might perceive here is, all these people are characters from the world of theater, the circus, so all these poses could be performances.

Garibay's mastery of lines and colors are evident in every piece. And this show is a strong reminder that figurative art has never really left us, after all.



ART FOR A CAUSE

Gentle Hands Inc. is inviting charitable persons and companies to join its art for a cause project with the Saturday Group of Artists. Proceeds will go to programs to help mothers and children. A P5,000 donation to the foundation's clinic will entitle the donor to a reserved painting which will be awarded on June 30 at West Gallery on West Avenue, QC. Sixty-five paintings are available, painted by acclaimed artists such as Malang, Cris Cruz, Wilson Ma, Merci Melchor, Magoo Valencia and Frank Verano. Call 913-5539-40 or e-mail gentlehands@surfshop.net.ph.

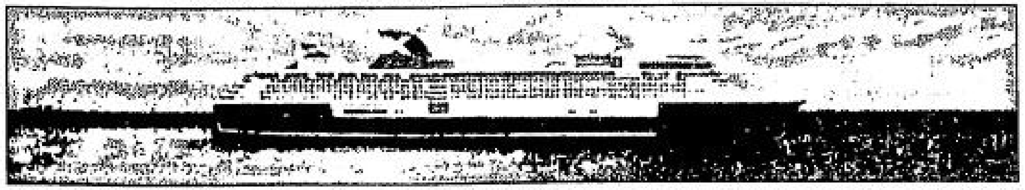
Photo exhibit celebrates male body

"DIVERSIONS," a photography exhibition by Jay Javier, is now on view at the Butterfly Blue Bar, 28 Scout Tobias corner Timog Ave., Barangay Laging Handa, QC. The exhibition is open until July 20.

"Diversions" focuses on the male body.

Javier is a photography instructor of the Department of Communication Arts, Faculty of Arts and Letters, University of Santo Tomas. He has done photography for fashion, publicity, corporate and advertising, among others.

Butterfly is open from 6 p.m. Call 371-3751.



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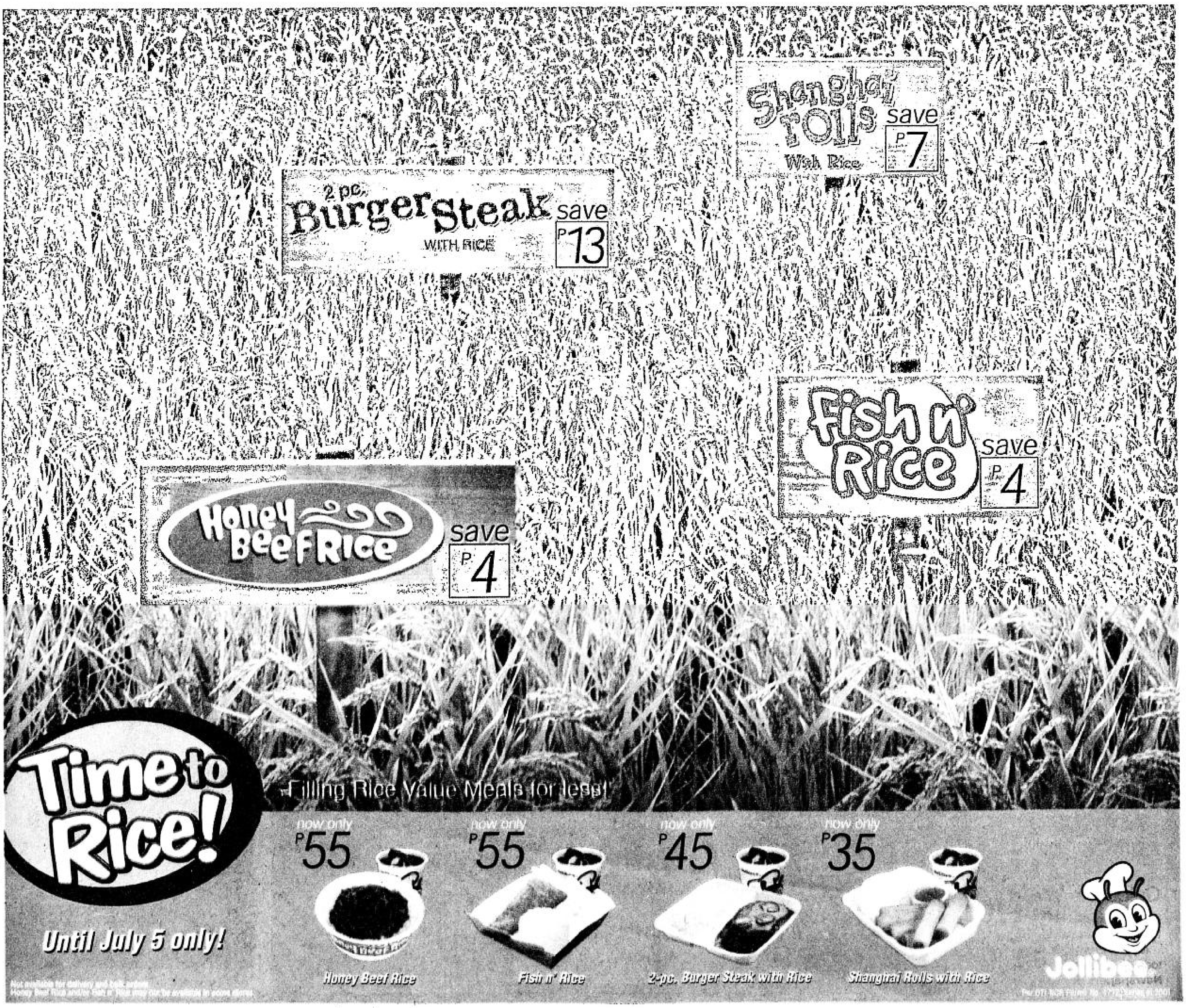
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Emma Navarro at Enterprise Center, Soler at Finale, print lecture at Benpres

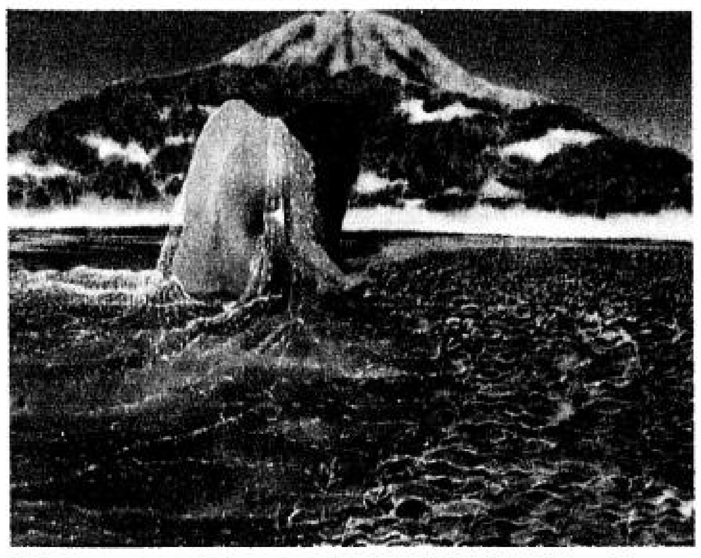
VISUAL ARTS

NAVARRO AT THE BIG AND SMALL ART GALLERY. Emma Navarro will have her first solo exhibit, "Of Woman and Drapes," on July 5, at the Big and Small Art Gallery, Upper Lobby, The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Ave. corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. The widow of the late National Artist, Jerry Elizalde Navarro, the artist will showcase her fascination for changing the complexion of the painting with the deft use of composition, color and texture. The exhibit runs until July 28. Call 371-8887.

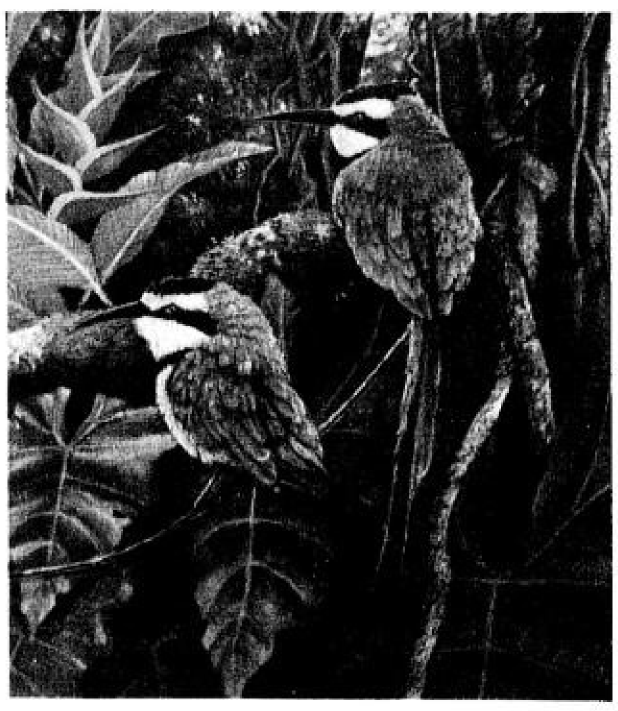
SOLER AT THE FINALE. Soler stirs up the art circles once again with the audacity of his works. For his "Waterfall" series, on view at the Finale Art File at the LaO Centre, June 21 to July 10, the artist does more experimentation, combining representation and abstraction, mixing acrylic with photo silkscreen/photographs and pencil on paper. Call 815-1813 or 810-4071.

AVIADO LECTURE. Pandy Aviado discusses the challenges and rewards of printmaking in a luncheon lecture at the Executive Lounge of Benpres Building (Exhange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City) on June 20. The lecture is organized by Lopez Museum and is priced at P1,250 per person. Call Fanny San Pedro at 631-2417 or 449-2355.

THREE ARTISTS AT GALLERIA DUEMILA. Recent works of Isabel Diaz, Lina Llaguno-Ciani and Phyllis Zaballero are on view at Galleria Duemila, Building A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. The exhibit runs until July 10. Call 634-3261 or 831-9990.



"SLEEPING GODDESS AT LAKE VENADO" by Ed Viacrucis



"UNTITLED," by Kleb Lozada, is part of the exhibit dubbed "Discovery," which opens on June 23 at Galeria de las Islas, 3/F Silahis Center, 744 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila. Call 527-2113.

FRENCH PAINTINGS AT THE MET. The Metropolitan Museum of Manila presents an exhibit of new French figurative paintings by six young French artists. Dubbed "Painting (Figures) Painting," the exhibit features works of Francoise Petrovitch, Philippe Cognee, Didier Dessus, Valerie Favre, Jerome Francois and Philippe Perrot. The exhibit runs until June 30. Call 523-7855.

BASCO AT CCP. Multimedia artist Rogger Basco focuses on contemporary women in "Basta Busto," a sculpture show opening June 21 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Bulwagang Fernando Amorsolo (Small Gallery). The exhibit will run until Aug. 6. Call 832-3702.

DAVAO ARTISTS IN NEW YORK. Five artists from Davao venture into the Big Apple art scene in an exhibit at the Philippine Center in New York until June 29. Participating artists are Arnel S. Villegas, Edmundo Viacrucis, Omar Luis Payumo, Anna Marie de Castro Onandia and Noel Constante Cespon.

GARCIA AT THE FINALE. Emmanuel "Butch" Garcia mounts his first one-man show, "City Escapes," June 26 to July 8, Finale Art Gallery, SM Megamall, Edsa, Mandaluyong City.

ESCOBAÑAS AT ANTONELLI'S. Antonelli's presents painter Paul Escobañas' 10th one-man show, "A Glimpse of the Past." The show, which is open to the public, features Escobañas works in watercolor—his forte. Antonelli's supports budding artists by exhibiting their work. It is located at the G/F Sarmiento Condominium, 177 Natal St., Brgy. San Antonio, Makati City. Call 844-0637.

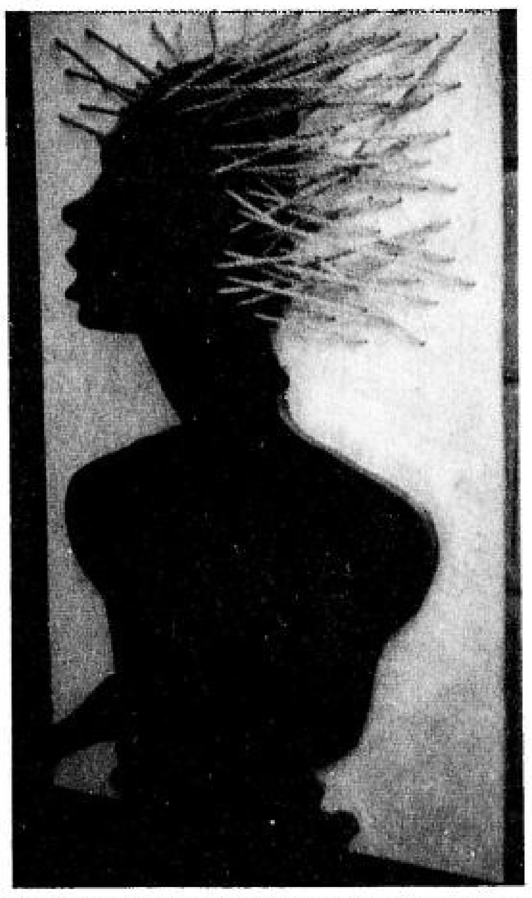
GARCIA AND PASTRANA AT THE FINALE. Nona Garcia and Gary-Ross Pastrana, two of the country's up-and-coming artists, unite for an extraordinary exhibit, "Collecting Thunder," at Finale Art Gallery, Artwalk, 4/L, SM Megamall A, Mandaluyong City. The exhibit runs until June 24. The artists use elements of traditional landscape painting as they contemplate nature's calmness and calamity. Call 634-2410/2411.

AUSTRALIAN CENTRE SHOW. "Pilipinas Loud and Clear" is an ongoing exhibit composed of individual and collaborative prints, computer-generated images, installation, textile, video and audio, 2D and 3D artworks of Australian artists, Rowena Friemann and Jenny Sanzaro. The exhibit runs until June 29.

ART CLASS AND WORKSHOPS. Escuela sa Museo, the continuing education program of the Ayala Museum, will open five basic drawing classes for adults and adolescents. Amiel Roldan will facilitate the first class on July 11. Leslie de Chavez will facilitate the second art class, which will begin July 21. Don Salubayba will facilitate the third class. The fourth and last class for adults, which will begin Aug. 15, will be facilitated by Mike Adrao.

Escuela sa Museo will also hold classes in visual arts using the new standardized curriculum designed to provide a more effective teaching methodology especially for children. Courses include Basic Drawing 1 and 2 for 10-13 year olds and Basic Arts and Crafts. Call 812-1191 to 97, local 130.

Meanwhile, the Positivism art workshop is now accepting participants for a basic drawing and painting session. The workshop will consist of eight meetings to be conducted 2-5 p.m. every Saturday at the E.R. Tagle Gallery, G/F, Gallery Building, Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City. Call 816-0904.



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Orchestra plays to spread message of peace

By Pablo A. Tariman

THE BUSIEST orchestra in June is the Cebu-based Peace Philharmonic Philippines (PPP), which mounted three Independence Day concerts from Cebu to Manila, capped by a special command performance at the Vin d'Honneur in Malacañang Palace.

The Malacañang performance was held on the very day the country was marking the 103rd anniversary of its independence. The reported beheading of an American hostage by the Abu Sayyaf had earlier dampened the mood in Malacañang.

But the President, who had earlier greeted her diplomat guests with a stern face, visibly relaxed upon hearing the PPP perform a medley of Visayan songs. She was also obviously touched by a performance of Constancio de Guzman's "Bayan Ko" with soprano Rachelle Gerodias and tenor Nolyn Cabahug as soloists.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo personally greeted the orchestra members and commended them for their mission to bring about peace in the country through music.

From the Cebu Plaza grand lobby to the Concert at the Park in Manila and a special performance at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, the Peace Philharmonic displayed remarkable vitality under the baton of Josefino Chino Toledo.

The PPP played a very daring program consisting of works from composers with very different ways of expressing music. It started with Buenaventura's "By The Hillside" followed by Kasilag's "Legend of Sarimanok." An immensely challenging (but unpopular) piece, Toledo's "Trenodya Ke Lean," closed the first part.

Two solo numbers from the Francisco Feliciano opera "Jose Abad Santos" were rendered by Nolyn Cabahug.

If the Kasilag, Toledo and Feliciano pieces created restless moments among those unfamiliar with contemporary sounds, they nevertheless gave Cebu and Manila audiences a respite from popular classical melodies. What mattered was that they were performed in good taste and with such freshness of interpretation.

Cabahug's rendition of two Feliciano arias from "Jose Abad Santos" was indeed a vocal initiation for both singer and listeners. It took

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1000 - Welcome
1010 - What's Hot, Cross Media?
1030 - Uncompressed Video from Aquisition to Distribution with Adam Green
1230 - Break

Part 2
1400 - Multi-Publishing with FreeHand 10 -
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1545 - Web Publishing with Dreamweaver 4
1615 - Wrap up / Lucky Draw
1630 - Refreshments

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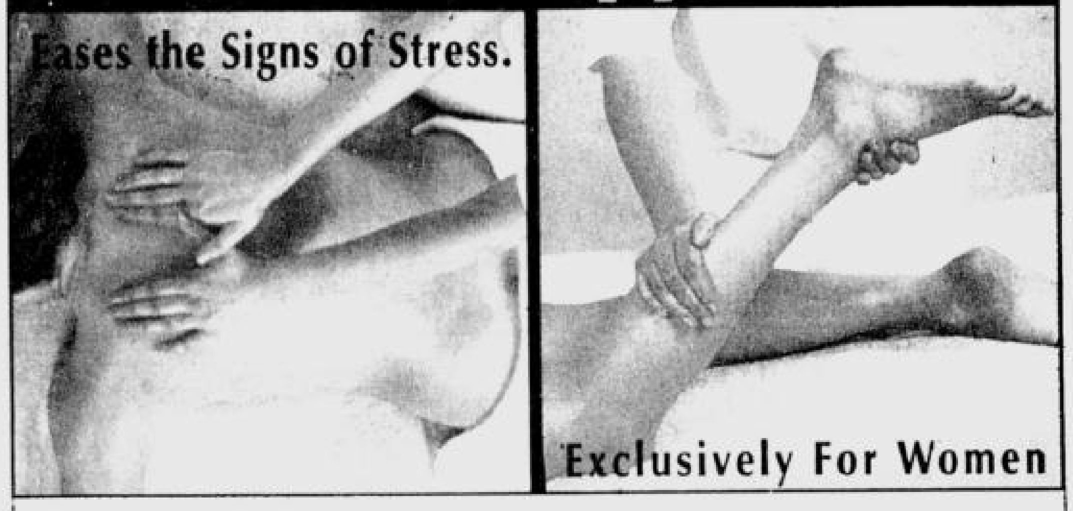
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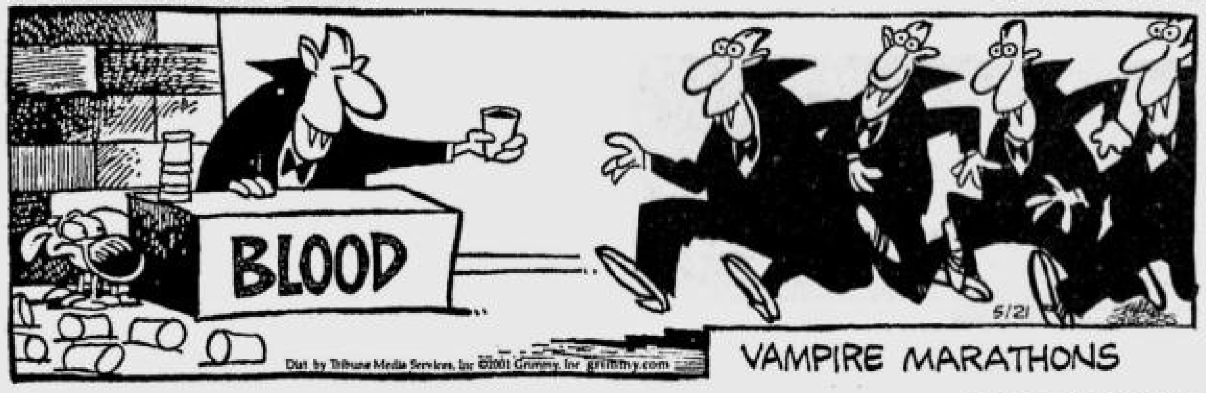
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


BLOOD
5/21
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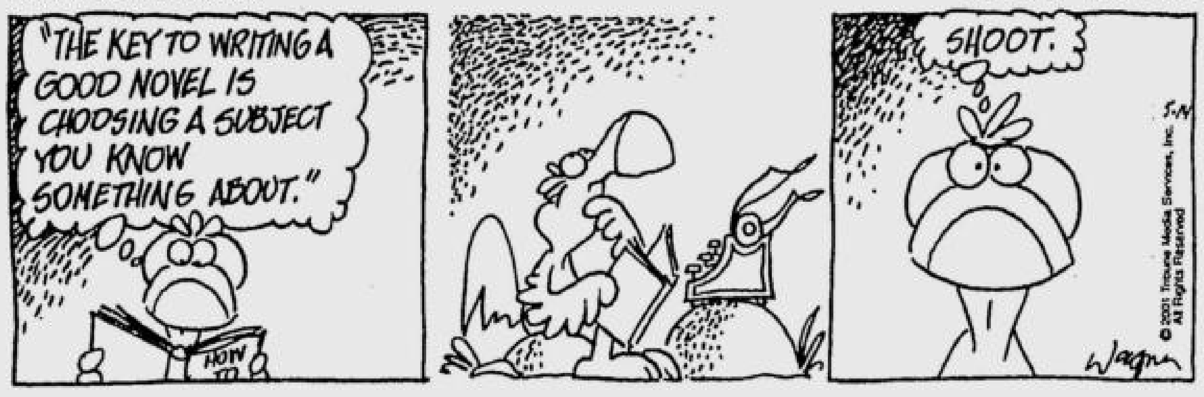
VAMPIRE MARATHONS

ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


"THE KEY TO WRITING A GOOD NOVEL IS CHOOSING A SUBJECT YOU KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT."
HOW TO
SHOOT.
5-14
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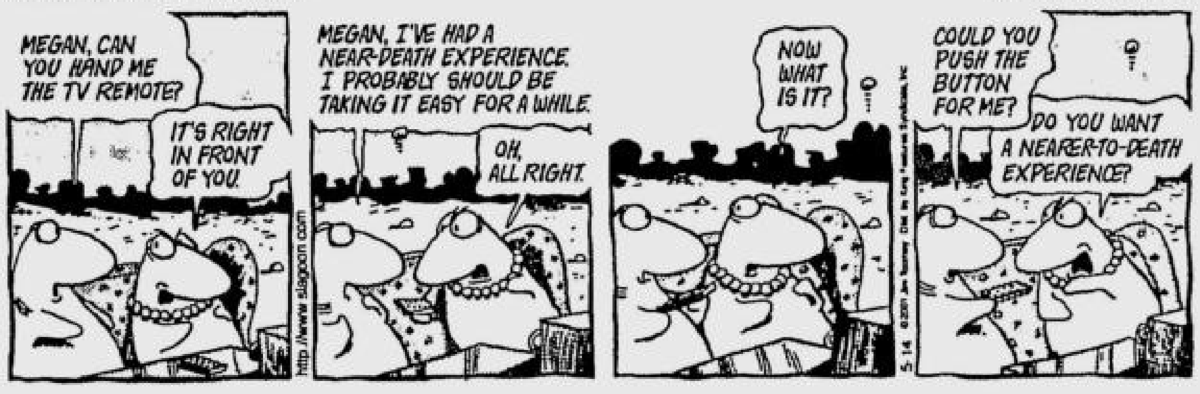
Wagner

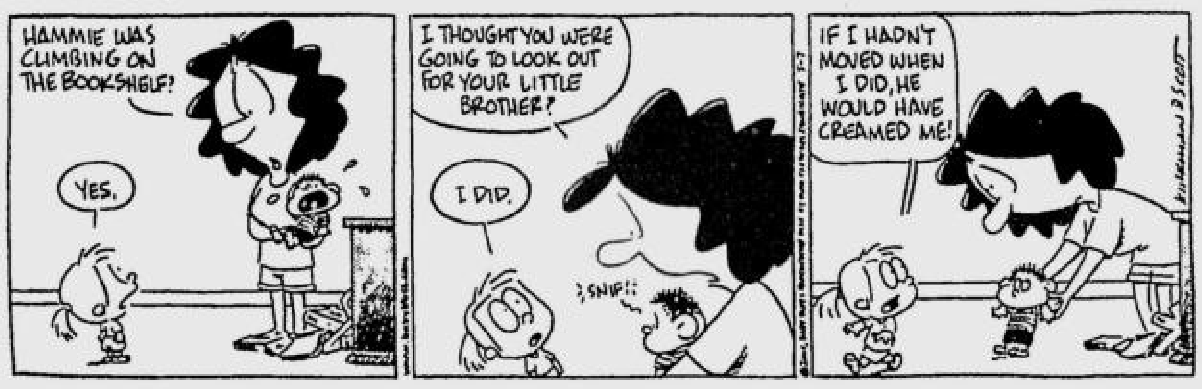
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


MEGAN, CAN YOU HAND ME THE TV REMOTE?
IT'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU.
http://www.slagoon.com
MEGAN, I'VE HAD A NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE. I PROBABLY SHOULD BE TAKING IT EASY FOR A WHILE.
OH, ALL RIGHT.
NOW WHAT IS IT?
5-14
COULD YOU PUSH THE BUTTON FOR ME?
DO YOU WANT A NEARER-TO-DEATH EXPERIENCE?

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HAMMIE WAS CLIMBING ON THE BOOKSHELF?
YES.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO LOOK OUT FOR YOUR LITTLE BROTHER?
I DID.
SNIF!!
IF I HADN'T MOVED WHEN I DID, HE WOULD HAVE CREAMED ME!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Paul McCartney, Isabella Rossellini, Roger Ebert, Sylvia Porter, Nathan Morris

Happy Birthday: You have a powerful urge to plunge into situations that may not be to your benefit. Slow down and rely on those who have your best interests at heart. Remember that if something sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Practice caution this year in order to reach the goals you have set. Your numbers: 5, 12, 17, 22, 24, 28

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your openness will earn you popularity. If you are focused and determined, you can achieve your goals. Consider pursuing new love interests. Leave yourself time to go to the gym.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll be upset if the one you love spends too much money, but you'll be inclined toward excess yourself. Too much food and drink will cause minor illness.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll take everything the wrong way today, but try not to let emotions take over. Your partner is unlikely to put up with complaining.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Be careful when dealing with corporations or institutions. Delays and improper procedures could cause problems that will be hard to sort out. Don't let anyone lead you astray.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You make a great impression on those who don't know you that well. You will draw a lot of attention by colorfully explaining things. You can gain allies and support for your efforts.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Use your head to make sudden changes that will put you into a far better position. Don't hesitate. If someone makes an offer, go for it. You need the change more than anything else.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): It's time to make those changes to yourself that you've been considering for so long. Book the necessary time and do the hard work to bring the look you desire.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll hear about an investment that you can't refuse. You should get rewards for the great job you're doing at work. If you don't, consider taking a position with the competition.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Extravagance and over-indulgence will result if you're feeling sorry for yourself. Lovers may be less than fair when it comes to money. Don't say anything that could be used against you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You're trying to wear too many hats. You'll have to make a choice if you don't want to become a jack-of-all-trades and master of none. Start focusing on your best assets.

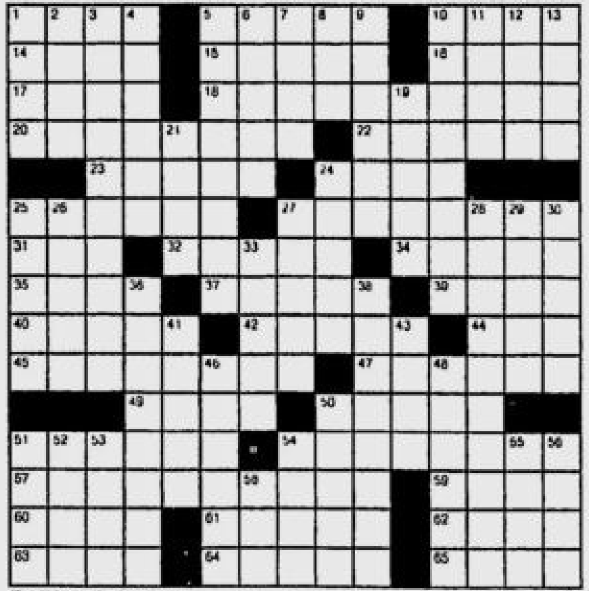
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will spread yourself too thin by juggling all the activities you've signed up for. If you can't live up to your obligations, you'll waste your money.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take action concerning your partner. Talk will only get you into trouble. Be aggressive and show him or her exactly how much you care.

Birthday Baby: You may appear to be muddled, but the truth is that you are just thinking of all sorts of things simultaneously. You are quick to respond and forever searching for information and knowledge.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

5/2/01

ACROSS
1 Rover's pal?
5 Fisherman's boot
10 Outbuilding
14 Golf bag item
15 Solo
16 Musical Porter
17 Furor
18 "Wild" pursuit
20 Railroad man
22 Swerved
23 Gods' images
24 Tiller
25 Fabricate
27 Cryptic
31 Gray soldier, briefly
32 Prohibit, legally
34 Saw wood in bed
35 Gabor and Peron
37 More rational
39 Dancer Verdon
40 Soothsayer
42 Performed again
44 Lout
45 Most disorderly
47 Singing parts
49 Jai __
50 Divining card
51 One who makes amends
54 Remainders
57 Peter Cottontail's path
59 Bangkok native
60 Book of "The Alexandria Quartet"
61 Steeplechase barrier
62 Musical pause
63 Window part
64 In good __
65 Crafts' partners

DOWN
1 Conflagration
2 Turkey's neighbor
3 Restaurant take-outs?
4 Iroquois tribe
5 Without a paycheck
6 Rue's relative?
7 Portal
8 Annapolis grad
9 Keanu of "My Own Private Idaho"
10 Plotter's pastime
11 Rime
12 Otherwise
13 Title paper
19 Highlanders
21 Jot down
24 Promoted to excess
25 Coffee enhancement
26 Ziegfeld Follies, e.g.
27 "Water Lilies" painter
28 Track clearer
29 Of acreage
30 Furnishes temporarily
33 Ankle bones
36 Stephen Foster song, "Oh! __"
38 Competed against
41 "The Life of __"
43 Mrs. Copperfield
46 Lairs of burrowing animals
48 Band or diction starter?
50 Subarctic forest
51 Rudiments
52 City south of Moscow
53 Sawbuck change
54 Summoned
55 Dawn's direction
56 Stays idle
58 Soak flax

SATURDAY PUZZLE ANSWER

M	A	M	A		S	H	E	A	R		S	N	O	B
O	L	E	G		C	E	L	I	A		P	O	P	E
W	I	D	E		E	L	A	N	D		A	R	I	A
E	V	E	N	I	N	G	S	T	A	R		T	E	D
D	E	A	D	B	E	A	T		R	I	C	H		
			A	M	T		I	N	S	E	A	S	O	N
E	L	M			W	A	C	O		L	E	T	G	O
T	O	O	L	B	O	X		E	N	S	N	A	R	E
C	O	V	E	R		I	S	L	E			R	E	S
S	P	I	N	I	E	S	T		A	L	I			
		E	D	E	N		O	F	T	E	N	E	S	T
A	L	S		F	A	L	L	I	N	G	S	T	A	R
T	U	T	U		M	E	L	E	E		T	U	N	E
O	R	A	L		O	V	E	N	S		E	D	D	A
P	E	R	M		R	I	N	D	S		P	E	S	T

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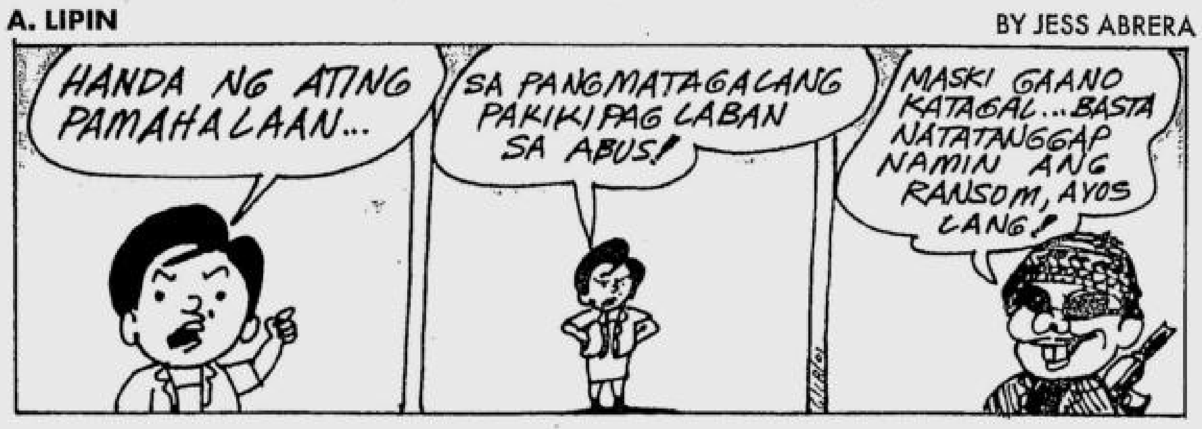
5/2/01

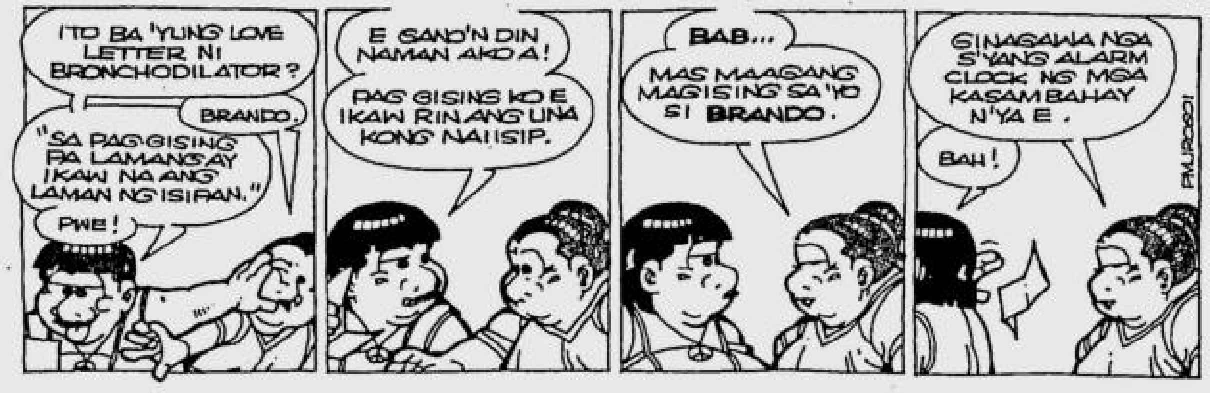
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


HANDA NG ATING PAMAHALAAN...
SA PANGMATAGALANG PAKIKIPAGLABAN SA ABUS!
MASKI GAANO KATAGAL... BASTA NATATANGGAP NAMIN ANG RANSOM, AYOS LANG!

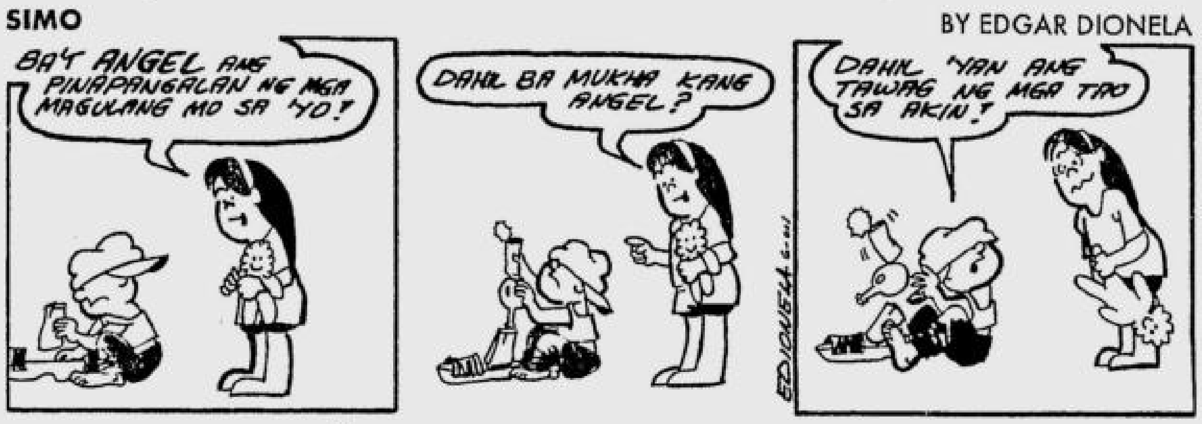
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


I'TO BA 'YUNG LOVE LETTER NI BRONCHODILATOR?
BRANDO.
"SA PAGGISING PA LAMANG AY IKAW NA ANG LAMAN NG ISIPAN."
PWE!
E GANO'N DIN NAMAN AKO A!
PAG GISING KO E IKAW RIN ANG UNA KONG NAIISIP.
BAB...
MAS MAAGANG MAGISING SA 'YO SI BRANDO.
GINAGAWA NGA S'YANG ALARM CLOCK NG MGA KASAMBAHAY N'YA E.
BAH!
PMJR2001

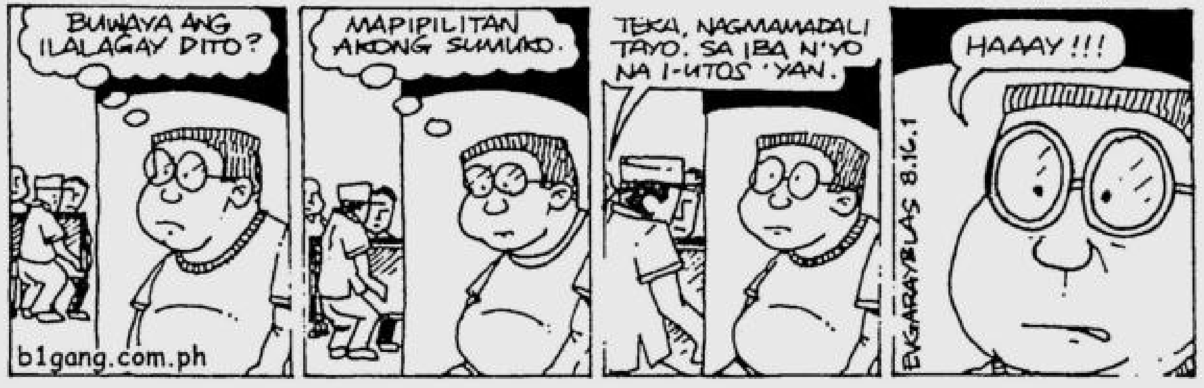
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


BA'T ANGEL ANG PINAPANGALAN NG MGA MAGULANG MO SA 'YO?
DAHIL BA MUKHA KANG ANGEL?
DAHIL 'YAN ANG TAWAG NG MGA TAO SA AKIN?
EDIONELA

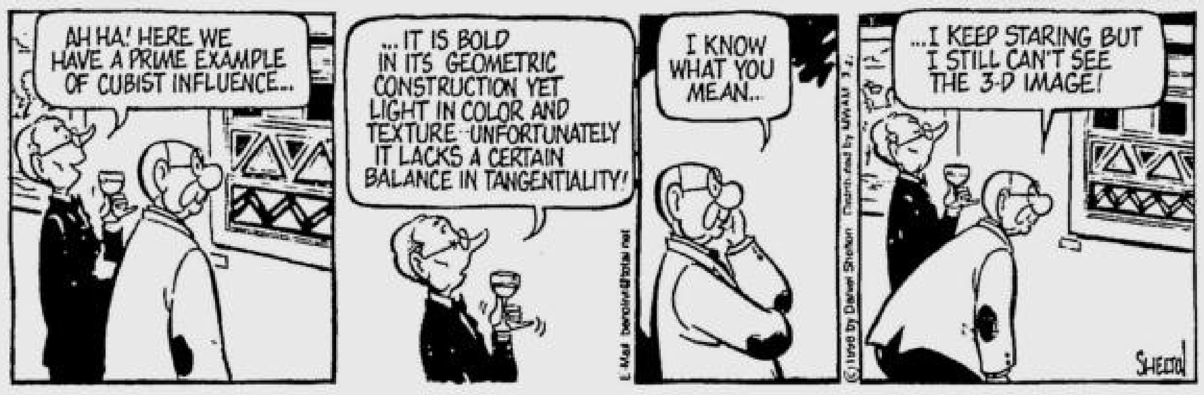
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


BUWAYA ANG ILALAGAY DITO?
b1gang.com.ph
MAPIPILITAN AKONG SUMUKO.
TEKA, NAGMAMADALI TAYO. SA IBA N'YO NA I-UTOS 'YAN.
EVGARAYBUAS 8.16.1
HAAAY!!!

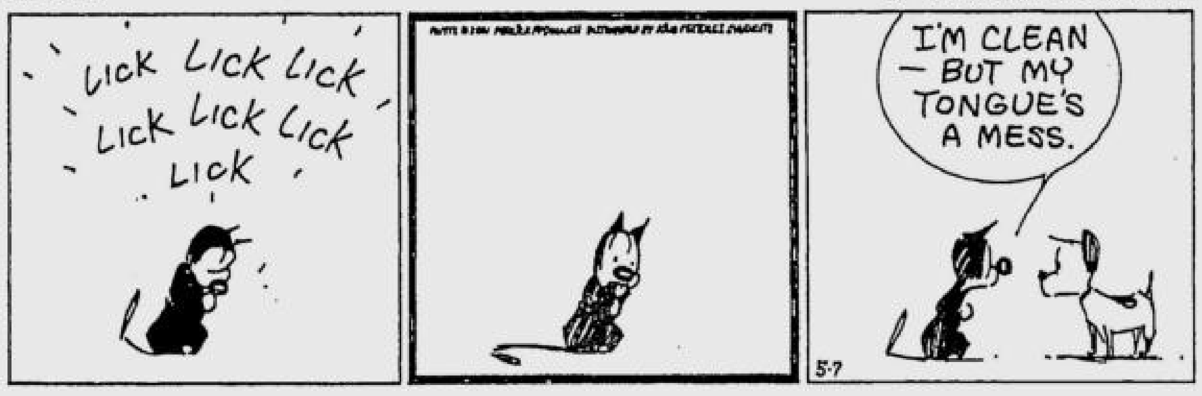
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


AH HA! HERE WE HAVE A PRIME EXAMPLE OF CUBIST INFLUENCE...
...IT IS BOLD IN ITS GEOMETRIC CONSTRUCTION YET LIGHT IN COLOR AND TEXTURE - UNFORTUNATELY IT LACKS A CERTAIN BALANCE IN TANGENTIALITY!
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN..
...I KEEP STARING BUT I STILL CAN'T SEE THE 3-D IMAGE!
© 1998 by Daniel Shelton
SHELTON

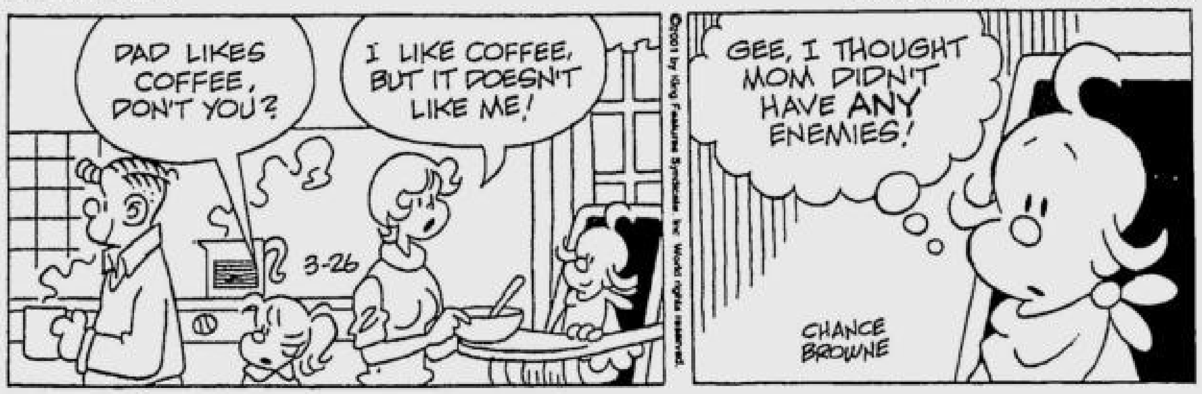
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


LICK LICK LICK LICK LICK LICK LICK
I'M CLEAN — BUT MY TONGUE'S A MESS.
5-7

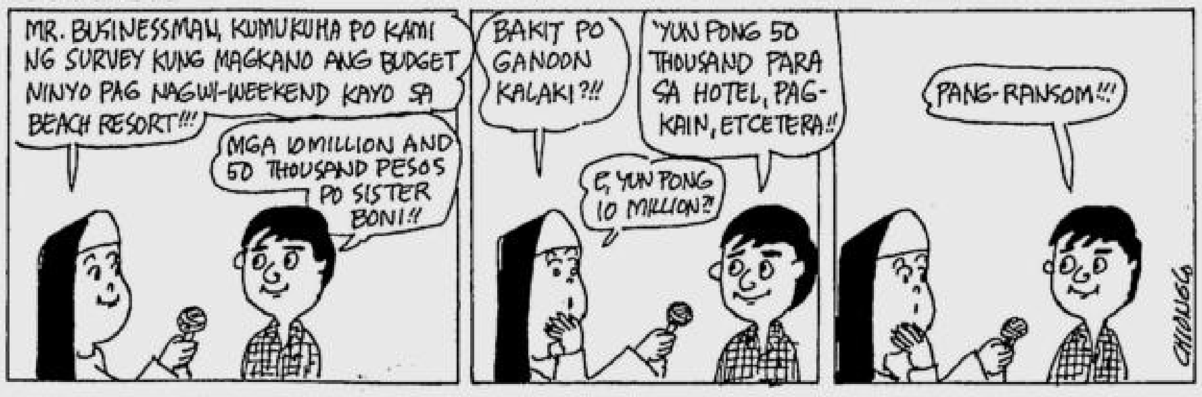
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


DAD LIKES COFFEE, DON'T YOU?
I LIKE COFFEE, BUT IT DOESN'T LIKE ME!
3-26
©2001 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
GEE, I THOUGHT MOM DIDN'T HAVE ANY ENEMIES!
CHANCE BROWNE

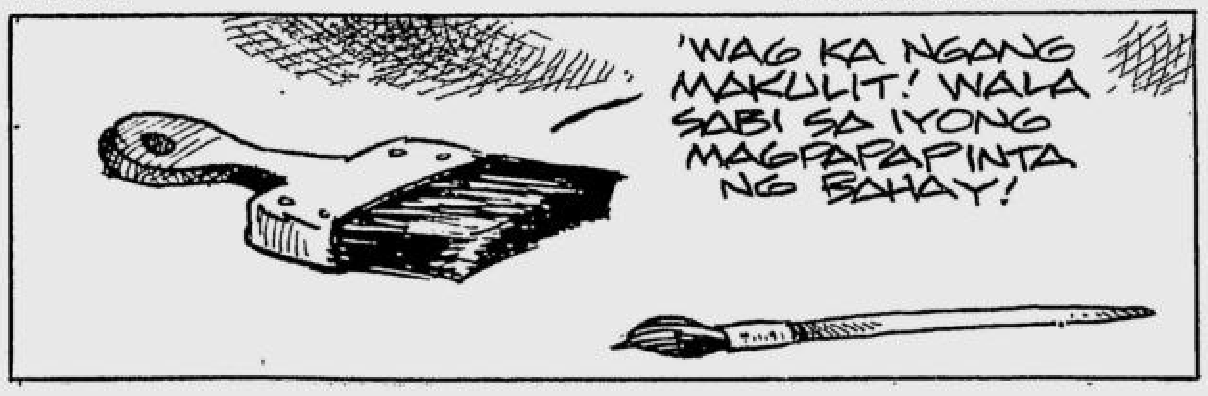
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MR. BUSINESSMAN, KUMUKUHA PO KAMI NG SURVEY KUNG MAGKANO ANG BUDGET NINYO PAG NAGWI-WEEKEND KAYO SA BEACH RESORT!!!
MGA 10 MILLION AND 50 THOUSAND PESOS PO SISTER BONI!!
BAKIT PO GANOON KALAKI?!!
E, YUN PONG 10 MILLION?!
'YUN PONG 50 THOUSAND PARA SA HOTEL, PAGKAIN, ETCETERA!!
PANG-RANSOM!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


'WAG KA NGANG MAKULIT! WALA SABI SA IYONG MAGPAPAPINTA NG BAHAY!

Mata recital earns accolades

NESTOR Mata, baritone, gave a song recital attended by about a hundred enthusiastic musicians, music lovers and environmentalists. The recital, a presentation of the Artists for the Environment in observance of World Environment Month, was held last weekend at the Heritage House in Blue Ridge A, QC.

Mata, who was accompanied by pianist Zenas Reyes Lozada, sang ten art songs in English, Spanish and Italian, and Filipino *kundimans*. He did three encore pieces in German, Filipino and English.

After the well-applauded recital, the performer also received verbal accolades from members of the audience including Lucrecia "King" Kasilag, National Artist for Music, and other professional musicians.

"An elegant baritone," Kasilag enthused.

"Very musical," commented operatic diva Fides Cuyugan-Asencio. Eminent conductor/violinist Sergio Esmilla admired the "high musicality."

"He's a natural," operatic baritone Nomer Son said while another baritone, Gamaliel Viray, was "amazed" by Mata's versatile performance.

Just as impressed were Sen. Francisco S. Tatad; Francisco Sionil Jose, new National Artist for Literature, and wife Tessie; Lifestyle Asia publisher Exequiel B. Garcia and wife Sassy; former Ambassadors Eva Estrada Kalaw and Oscar S. Villadolid; journalist Conrad de Quiros and pianist wife Theta; Dr. Tessie de Gala; Dr. Marica Blanco-Limpin; Florencio Campornanes, chair of Fide, the international chess federation; environmentalists Odette Alcantara, Mimi Sison, Inday Garcia-Berroya, Isaac and Isabella Safir and many other music lovers.

Mata's repertoire included his recital signature song, the dramatic "Let All my Life be Music" by Charles Spross; Manuel Ponce's "Estrellita"; "Noche de Amor," "Noche Misteriosa," an aria from the Spanish *zarzuela* "El Ultimo Romantico"; Italian love songs "O Sole Mio" and "Ti Voglio Tanto Bene" and Nicanor Abelardo's "Bituing Marikit" and "Nasaan Ka Irog."

For encore, Mata sang Franz Lehar's "Yours is my Heart Alone" in German, followed by Leopoldo Solis' haunting "Lagi Kitang Naalala" and "If I Loved You," which he sang with sopranos Fides, Mimi and Ivi Arellano-Cosio.

'Dreamweavers' presents Pinoy dreams turned ugly

By Cora Llamas

REVIEW

THE POOR have nothing to live for, except their dreams, which sometimes don't even come near an inch of fulfillment. So many go through the torture of knowing what never was, and the painful realization of what never could be. And the dreams vanish without a trace, with no one to mourn for them.

Unless they find expression in a playwright like Rody Vera, the artistic director of the Playwrights Development Program of the Phils.

Vera's "Dreamweavers," produced by the Philippine Educational Theater Association (Peta), finished a successful tour in the Netherlands, then enjoyed a short run at the RCBC Plaza last month. The work is a chronicle. Yet, considering the subject matter, it is far from being a grim one. Under his and Maribel Legarda's joint direction, the stories of three barrio lasses who dream big but get little from life, become funny, bittersweet and touching, inducing not a few to tears at several key moments.

The story is nothing new, really. We've seen several versions of it in the movies and case studies. Libay (Jo-Ann Morallos), the strongest of the *barkada*, puts up her own garment business. An initial success, her products find a market in China. Soon enough, though, competition from other countries that produce more goods at half the price threatens to wipe her out. She soon succumbs to cancer. Evelyn (Marichu B. Carino), a mail-order bride to a Dutch businessman, is the most successful of the three. But she remains a perpetual stranger—to the country she lives in, and her Europeanized Emma (Wena Basco), who gets freaked out by *santacruzans*, *tinolas* and huge Pinoy family gatherings.

Bon's (Lea Espallardo) tale is the saddest. She who would give everything up for true love becomes a factory worker in Manila. Her jobless husband goes off with another woman, leaving her to fend for their children.

MON Confrado panics while Jethro Patalinghug plots in "Baclofen"

HEARTBROKEN Mario Magallona contemplates suicide in "Baclofen"

Unlike many socially conscious plays, "Dreamweavers" doesn't preach. In keeping with the play's dominant imagery, the stories are a tapestry of life. The audience is made to hear and see the hearts of these women, and is moved to think about their plight.

Ironically, a foreigner, a young Dutch tourist (Esther Ter Hortst), is the thread that connects the friends' now separate lives. She buys a tapestry from Libay's widower, thinking it to be an ancient heirloom, mistakenly but hilariously reading into it all sorts of mythical legends and traditions. Libay's cloth is a narrative—but what it compiles are the very ordinary, but very real, and no less important sagas of herself and her friends.

The tourist's misguided "interpretation" links the parallels and leads to the fateful reunion. Augmenting it are black-and-white photographs on the central wall of the stage. Amidst a background that is layered with "*banig*" strips, the photos provide the real-life local color of the scenes being played out: A burial in the province, with the whole town in attendance; simultaneous weddings in a church, with the couples impatiently waiting for the ceremony to finish; fragile makeshift houses of cardboard and iron on a polluted river filled with garbage.

What makes "Dreamweavers" even more fascinating is that it loses none of its Filipino-ness and its authenticity though it is written in English with the expatriate audience in mind. The lyrical songs are in Tagalog, directly speaking to our collective gut. Except for Evelyn and the tourist, all the characters say their lines with the raw accent of the *provinciano* or the unschooled urban poor. Street-lingo and our favorite Pinoy slogans are thrown in at the right moments during the dialogue. Just as a minor sentiment, Bon, embittered by poverty, captures all the anger and struggle in her heart with just one phrase: "*Putang ina*!" The English analogue wouldn't have delivered the same sentiment.

"Dreamweavers" is also a travelogue not just for Horst's confused tourist.

Vera ladens the script with gems of Pinoy witticisms, values, and habits—the Pinoy ingenuity to find a way ("*makahanap ng paraan*") out, loyalty to friends and family and uncanny ability to laugh at every problem. An expat watching "Dreamweavers" will perhaps gain a deeper understanding of what makes the Pinoy unique. On the other hand, the Pinoy will enter into a journey of understanding about his or her identity.

Gay themes

The stuntman in Dulaang UP's "Dobol" (Mario Magallona) also dreams of finding his perfect love: A straight guy. Brokenhearted by a stud whom he takes under his wing, the apparently macho man contemplates suicide. The pay-off in watching this Rene Villanueva play, directed by Alex Cortez, is seeing two straight actors (Magallona and Ortiz) play against type. Neither descend into the maudlin or overreact. Ortiz' character genuinely seems to care for the stuntman; but he's "straight" and ergo, wants his own family.

Aided by film clips of the Disney movie, Villanueva also makes amusing comparisons between the gay life and the Little Mermaid: living between two worlds, the question of identity and the desperate quest for a seeming impossible love.

"Baclofen" following "Dobol" is a whodunit. The central characters involve a straight stud, a loud-mouthed horny gay hairdresser and the teenager the latter adopts who hates him with a passion. The twists and turns of this play remind you of "Deathtrap" and other gender-bender thrillers. The real reward is in imbibing the atmosphere of the play. Cortez effectively creates the seediness, squalor and cutthroat desperation in this place that can reduce people into savages. In the end, there are no winners, and the cycle repeats itself, building up into another stage for murder and mayhem.

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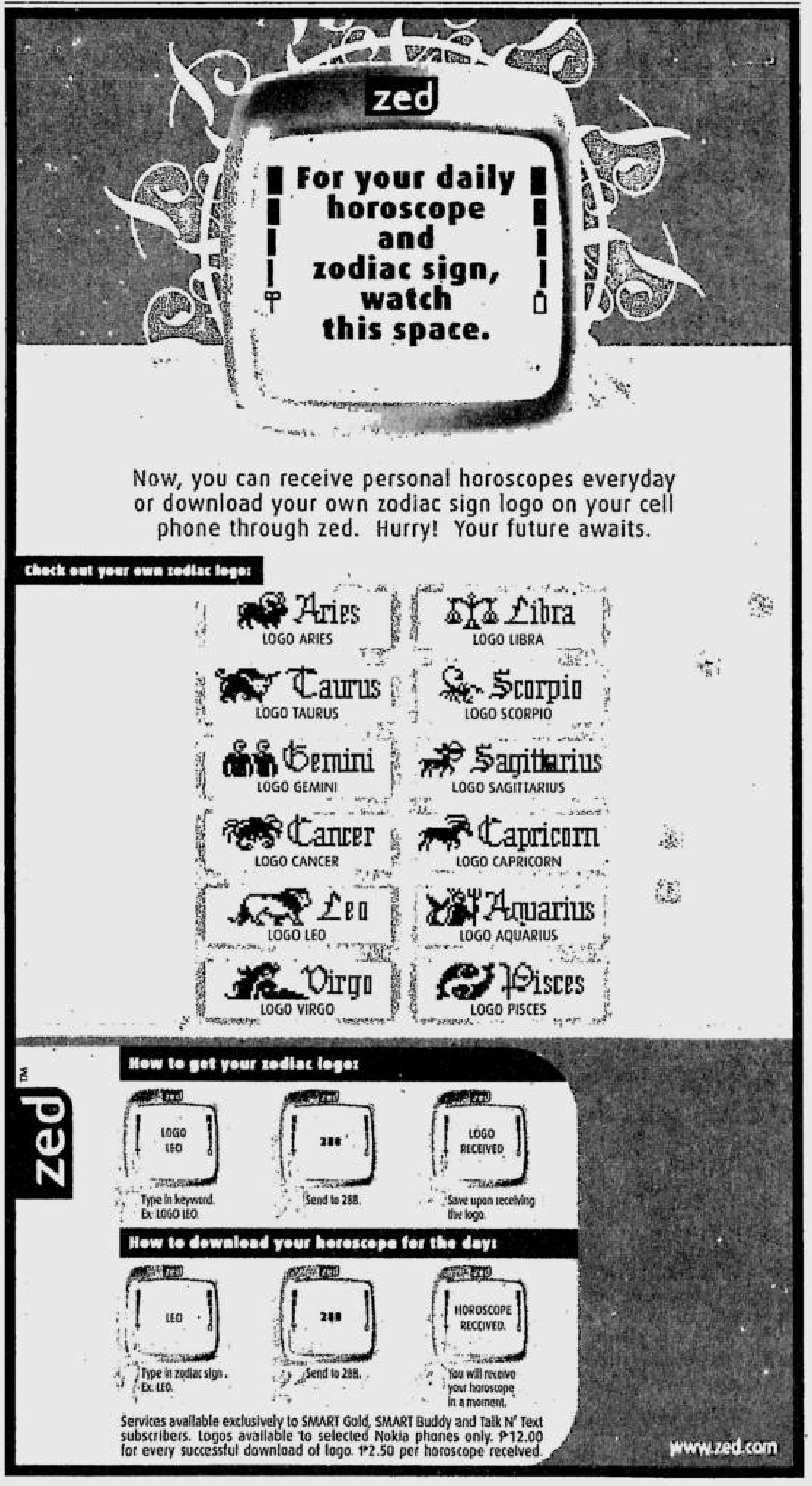

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Orchestra plays to spread message of peace

(From page F1)

much from the interpreter leading the tenor to remark, "A Feliciano composition is no walk in the park. The difficulty is in the incredible range and the frequent shifting of time signature. Add to that the shifting tempi and difficult intervals."

In all the three concerts, the aria that shook the audience was Felipe Padilla de Leon's "Awit ng Gabi ni Sisa," sang with vivid dramatic fervor by soprano Rachelle Gerodias. From the first to the last measures, Gerodias breathed every haunting moment of the piece and proved to be a supreme actress at the same time. Every note evoked drama, which the soprano delivered with class. At the Rizal Park, Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. was so touched by the aria he gave the soprano and the orchestra a cheering standing ovation.

The three Independence Day concerts also celebrated the centenary of the Philippine judiciary.

Said Justice Davide: "I think that listening to the haunting strains arising from the harmony of tones and timbres created by an orchestra that proclaims its mission of peace is a wonderful way of celebrating the centenary of the High Court. May every note, every measure lift our minds and spirits to those heights where excellence and nobility reign supreme. For these are the values to which the Supreme Court of the Philippines has consecrated itself even as it commits itself anew to a nation supremely dedicated to the rule of law and love and service to the country."

What Justice Davide said about music and love for country, in fact, found moving expression in the tumultuous standing ovation for the PPP at the Cultural Center of the Philippines after the rendition of "Bayan Ko."

It was a grand way to usher in a new season of the Peace Philharmonic, which is ably steered by the Salvador and Pilar Sala Foundation under the artistic direction of Ingrid Sala Santamaria.

* * *

Opera singers and aficionados should not miss Repertory Philippines' presentation of Terence MacNally's "Master Class" with Baby Barredo as the legendary diva Maria Callas and with three honest-to-goodness opera singers as her students—Nolyn Cabahug, Karla Gutierrez and Jay Glorioso. Elver Esquivel alternates with Cabahug.

In the opening night, Barredo essayed what could be one of her best (if not her best) performances yet and the three students from Cabahug to Gutierrez and Glorioso were excellent as singing actors. The role is down right perfect for Barredo who appeared in an earlier Pergolesi opera. Only an actress with enough background and exposure on opera can pull off this challenging part.

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (center) with pianist Ingrid Sala Santamaria pose with PPP members in Malacañang. Also shown is Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, who provided Manila transport for the Cebu-based orchestra.
PHOTO: SUE GRAY

JUSTICE Hilario Davide Jr. (extreme left) at the CCP Independence Day Concert with PPP under Chino Toledo (extreme right) and soloist Nolyn Cabahug and Rachelle Gerodias.
PHOTO: KIKO LABUEMA

Cabahug as the tenor Anthony Candolino singing "Recondite Armonia" (from Tosca) acquitted himself very well both as singer and actor and so did Glorioso and Gutierrez.

Superbly directed by Zeneida Amador, "Master Class" also had a marked walk-on role by Michael Williams as the stagehand and Jojo Malferrari as the honest-to-goodness master class pianist.

Meanwhile, the Cleveland production of this play mounted at the Beck Center for the Performing Arts in Lakewood, Ohio is getting raves for the Filipino tenor, Gary del Rosario, who plays Anthony Candolino.

Wrote James Damico in the Cleveland Free Times: "Del Rosario's Tony is sparkly and charismatic with an excellent singing voice. The scene with Tony and Callas is one of the play's most satisfying, he is the lone student in the master class to stand up to La Divina and finally wins her praise."

Needless to say, Del Rosario was getting his big share of applause along with the actress playing Callas.

Cecile Licad is one of this year's recipient of the Gatpuno Antonio Villegas Award to be conferred on the 430th celebration of the Araw ng Maynila. Other awardees include Carmen Guerrero Nakpil, Nestor Torre, Laurice Guillen, Ryan Cayabyab, Vella Damian and the Ramon Obusan Folkloric Group.

Canada-based Filipino soprano Elaine Lim Lee debuts at the Philamlife Theater on July 14 with the Manila Festival Orchestra under the baton of Nonoy Diestro. Guest artist is flutist Sonny Yangco who is soloist in Bizet's "Carmen Fantasy." Lee's solo repertoire includes Mozart's "Exultate Jubilate," Schubert's "Ave Maria" and "Sheperd on the Rock" as well as selected arias from "Don Pasquale," "Rigoletto," "La Boheme" and "La Traviata."

The Manila Festival Orchestra will perform Mozart's Magic Flute Overture and Bernstein's Candide Overture. Tickets are available at all TicketWorld outlets at the National Bookstore and the Cultural Center of the Philippines. For inquiries, call Gigi at 723-7767.

"Maestro Filipino III," initiated by radio station dzFE, will be staged June 29 at the Francisco Santiago Hall with music ranging from Western to Asian and the indigenous. Featured artists are soprano Rachelle Gerodias, flutist Eric Barcelo, baritone Laurence Jatayna, the PWU Guitar Ensemble and the AILM Asian Ensemble, among others. Call 810-3896.

Yuson's strange familiarity

"Mothers Like Elephants, Selected Poems and New"
By Alfred Yuson
Anvil Publications, 2000, 131pp.

BY OPHELIA A. DIMALANTA

REVIEW

"YUSON at his best is poetic language at its best," says Ric de Ungria. This is best seen in Yuson's latest collection, "Mothers Like Elephants, Selected Poems and New," the selected poems culled from his earlier collections "Sea Serpent," "Dream of Knives" and "Trading in Mermaids," along with 25 new poems.

Unforgettable and a personal favorite, already a classic and widely anthologized is "Afternoon Gardener" from his first collection "Sea Serpent," the gardener "crawling right off from his prayers/with a teaspoon and a hoe/ into the finite green and the beginning blue." Poetry as achieved form is a beautiful exchange through language, a relational process, referring to this relationship between poet, poem and reader, taking place when a chord is struck, a response initiated, mediated through a text, a body of words. Again in "Tightwire" (from "Dream of Knives"): "How many times/He has known the virtues of fallings, How many/Mountain and dancer he has loved while falling" And "She's the lonely void/we fill with brutish chunks of asteroid" ("Dream of Knives"). And of Andy Warhol "Art, my dears, is not cleaning up/after the act. Neither is it washing off/grime with the soap of tact." ("Trading - in Mermaids").

Lines we enjoy reading to ourselves, tripping now and then over strategically placed ambiguities, part of the mystique of the poetic experience which is shared although text is not necessarily understood all the way, part of what is unsaid in a poem, the imperceptible and ineffable.

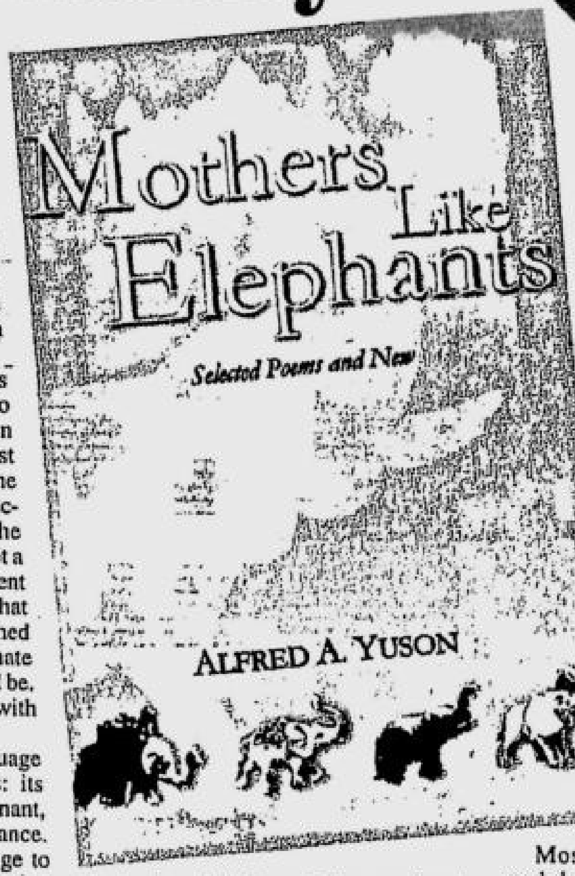
Seismic

To read Yuson is to feel certain seismic vibrations, some sounding of depths, even if at times no real intimacy is established. Yuson always keeps distance, his aesthetics, especially when it comes to love poems, either by being brutally direct, or by couching with humor, cleverness, wit.

And the problem/ wonder could be in his use of language, the medium of poetry, the reader's and the poet's common property. There are all kinds of readers. Some want to be pried open, carried away, transported, transformed, some simply take delight in savoring the poet's art, his exciting bout with language, his sense of novelty, ambiguities, word games and all. If ever any sense of empathy is achieved, it is a kind of aesthetic empathy.

The problem with Yuson's language is that it could be too urbane, too cool for the common Filipino sensibility, which is most of the time more responsive to the heavily evocative, the familiarly recognizable, the identifiable, the readily communicable. This is not a denigration but a realistic assessment of the typical Filipino reader that wants to be stirred intimate, touched to the quick, through the passionate and sentimental, the erotic if need be. Lay the emotions thick. Prettify with quotables and clinchers.

The wonder of Yuson's language is paradoxically, precisely this: its urban, cool, cosmopolitan, poignant, pastel sophistication and elegance. His art lies in stretching language to its fullest potential for ambiguity, metaphorical density, even in the seeming simple and terse line. He has to say it different, view reality differently. He can be powerful while working along the language of fragmentation, ellipsis, followed by a calming stasis in the wake of din. "She has killed me beautifully already. See. Our refuge/ is in situ, right here. Below sea level. Love that's real." And his erotics: "I smell your smell down there/and all is well, Mama Bitch/wherever we are in the world." Voyeurism through the Internet, masturbation, etc…and he is able to pull it off, because as we said, the language has it.



And when he comes through, which is most of the time for the initiates, he is unsparing. In "Solace," he writes: "Our foreskins were off ere the bond was cut/ and dark dog howled before the hangman" (alluding to the essentially precarious relationship between father and son) … "the fear of filial failing raging through our gut/before the last hug."

Personal and social

His "Captives of the City," his longest new poem, alternates between poetry as personal lyric and social gesture which most of Yuson's poems are. Both his lyricism and social comment are spare, never allowed to obtrude, as if his poetry is supposed to go beyond both, as if he is some kind of a scintillatingly gracious Horace contemplating the world from his Sabine villa armed with language and enough savoir-faire to contain the possibility of his heart's rampages.

Most of the time, panelist of workshops which advocate the polished, perfectly crafted, sometimes overly careful line, he would himself swing to the other end (all the while in control, needless to say), which is daring to take the risk of resorting even to the unseemly, the traditionally unacceptable line or detail in the service of this so-called "virile" style, a style which Philippine poetry, especially among the new voices, is running short of.

And the wonder is, this is in fact one of the wonders of this new direction in poetry. The young poets must learn assiduously the craft in order to be privileged to assume sovereignty over it in time, breaking loose in the name of a personal poetics, but only when the time is ripe, and not ever before. Yuson defamiliarizes words, situations, refreshing language precisely because it is made new through linguistic estrangements. It takes a familiarity with the language to defamiliarize it; thorough acquaintance with words before one can succeed in "making them strange."

It is more than anything, an elegance of style, in the rugged, the cutely turned phrase, the wry and ironic understatements, the unexpected naked utterances. Elegance can come in different guises and packages. The poetic arena after all is reached through different points of entry. Polish poet Szymborska says of her poetry: "my identifying features are/rapture and despair." Could also be Yuson's and many other poets', concealed most of the time through worldly wise comments on the quotidian, and being caught up in its mire, as he takes "the oblique poise, the brief pose before the clutter and dazzle of veils."

Indeed, Yuson's poetry is "intimidating and inviting," says V.Groyon. And challenging and engaging, also in equal measure…and when engaged, we cannot help losing ourselves to it, to the language which after all is what it is in poetry that makes things happen.

JOJI LIM GO placed 16th in the recently concluded Civil Engineering Board Examination. This 21-year-old De La Salle University graduate is the youngest daughter of proud parents, Mr. Jose Go Jr. and Mrs. Lilian Lim Go. Joji, got a 93.75 percentile in the Board Exams, where only 1,099 out of the 3,075 examinees passed.

Physician-adventurer recounts his golden tales from RP

WHEN San Francisco Bay area physician Tom Stern succumbed to "gold fever," he did what most adventurers do—heeded it's glinting call. But hunting for lost treasure in the virtually lawless pockets of the Philippine jungle is a dangerous business. And after two of Stern's workers in his gold-mining operation were shot and killed, the reality of the stakes at hand became frighteningly apparent to Stern, as further evidenced by the continuing violence and instability of the region reported almost daily in the news.

And so it was that while enduring this and other calamities, Stern became motivated to record his experiences in the Philippines initially as a memoir for his children. But after reading the first chapter, friends and family instead encouraged him to write a book.

"I never set out to write a novel. My intention was to record more than 50 visits to the Philippines so my children would have a better appreciation of the colorful adventures I have been involved in," said Stern. But write a book he did and "Gold Fever," published by AEI/Titan, is now in wide release including the new author's website www.TomStern.com.

Often in the Philippines as a volunteer with the Interplast organization performing surgery on children with facial deformities, Stern was recognized as Humanitarian of the Year in 1996 by The Federation of Philippine-American Chambers of Commerce of the USA. He has also been cited as an Honorary Goodwill Ambassador, State of California, among other distinguished service awards.

But it was the geopolitical intrigue coupled with the allure of discovering the lost Yamashita Gold that sent him back repeatedly to the volatile Southern jungle region of the Philippines, where Muslims and Christians have been embattled for centuries. There, Stern encountered the nefarious individuals from the Philippines, where Muslims and Christians have been embattled for centuries. There, Stern encountered shady characters from the Filipino underworld who control treasure-hunting activities in the region.

"These people operate considerably outside any recognized legal system, have connections all over the world and take a dim view of anyone exposing their secrets. The only option was to change the names, sex and nationalities of the various people involved so as not to expose their mode of operation," Stern comments, shaking his head as the memories resurface. "If the book had been published in its original form, my life expectancy would almost certainly have been reduced to a matter of days."

Daring.
Dangerous.
Deceitful

Stern's story revolves around the pursuit of the legendary Yamashita treasure, which originated in 1946 when Lt. Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita, nicknamed the Tiger of Malaya, was hanged. The knowledge of the whereabouts of his alleged horde of gold, precious stones and priceless artifacts seized during the Japanese occupation of Southeast Asia died with him on the gallows.

The heart-pounding saga, full of raw sexuality and violence, has received a range of glowing early reviews including from Nur Misuari, one of the most significant and prominent voices in the Filipino Islamic movement. Misuari, a recent winner of the United Nations Peace Prize for his efforts to bring stability to the Philippines, says of "Gold Fever," "In addition to a great story with a torrid romance, Tom Stern tells the story of the struggle in a way no other author has. Everyone should read it."

A high-profile party celebrating the book's publication is scheduled on June 16 in Manila with a guest list that includes President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, senators, movie moguls and socialites. Hollywood producer and literary agent Ken Atchity of AEI/Titan will fly to Manila for the rollout of the first novel bearing the AEI marque. With "Gold Fever" already acclaimed in Hong Kong, the literary community in Manila predicts "Gold Fever" will rocket to blockbuster sales there as well.

Hollywood, always interested in the acquisition of more gold itself, is also taking note of Stern's tale. While not yet able to reveal the specifics, Stern has also divulged that two leading film companies are interested in his story. He's liable to strike it rich with "Gold Fever," indeed.

CHIEF Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr. led the opening last June 8 of the exhibit on the written works by and about current and former Justices of the Supreme Court. One of the books was "The Pragmatic Jurist," a compilation of selected significant opinions including a brief biography of former Chief Justice Querube C. Makalintal (1973-1975). With Chief Justice Davide are the book's editors, Rhoda S. Santos (left) and Chat Garrido-Ocampo, both of the Court's Public Information Office. The exhibit was organized by the Court's Library Services Office and the Association of Retired Justices of the Supreme Court.

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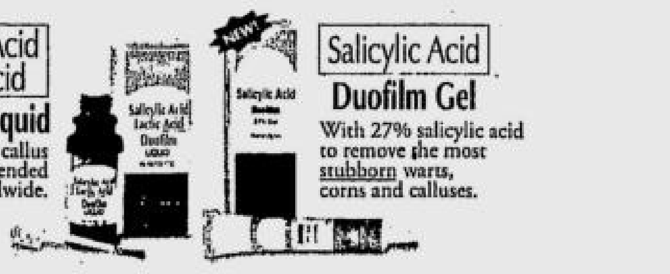

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FRENCH SPRING IN MANILA

Leading artists join music festival

FETE de la Musique 2001 will be held on June 23 on A. Mabini Street, Malate.

The annual festival of music, which started in Paris in 1982, will actually be marked on June 21 in all the other countries. Local organizers, however, chose Saturday night knowing Manilans prefer to party on that day.

The festival showcases amateur musicians. It is now being celebrated in over 100 countries. The Philippines has marked the event in the past eight years.

For Fete 2001 Manila, the main stage will be set up right outside Republic of Malate on A. Mabini Street. Four more concert stages will be set up inside Republic of Malate, the second floor of Survival Café, Hobbit House and Krakatoa.

At least 25 groups and performers will be featured in Fete 2001 starting at 9 p.m. These are Bo Razon's Puro Ritmo, Pinikpikan, Cynthia Alexander, Imago and Makiling Ensemble, Razorback, Rivermaya, Sandwich, Radioactive Sago Project, Garlic and Pinwheel, Spy, Brownbeat Allstars, Tropical Depression, the Third World Project, Bluesviminda and Cooky Chua, Blue Rats and the Aquarella Trio. Also participating are urban and dance masters Toti D, Edge Pamute, Acousma, Bingo and Cyril of Groovenation, 63 Squad's Kimozave, MC Dash and DJ Coki.

This year's event is organized by PLW-BTL and Dovetail Solutions while Studio 23's MYX has exclusive rights to record the event for future broadcast.

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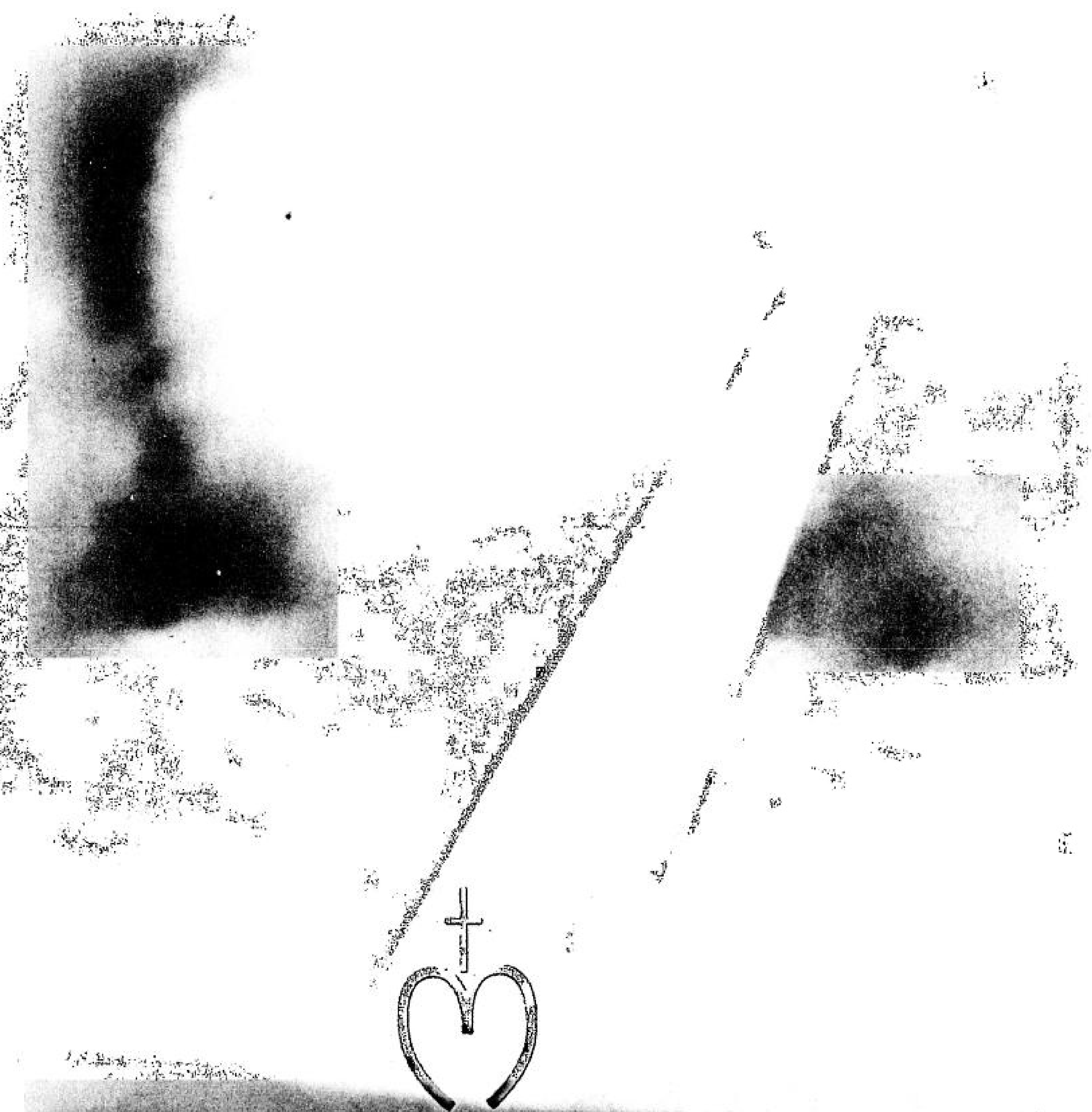

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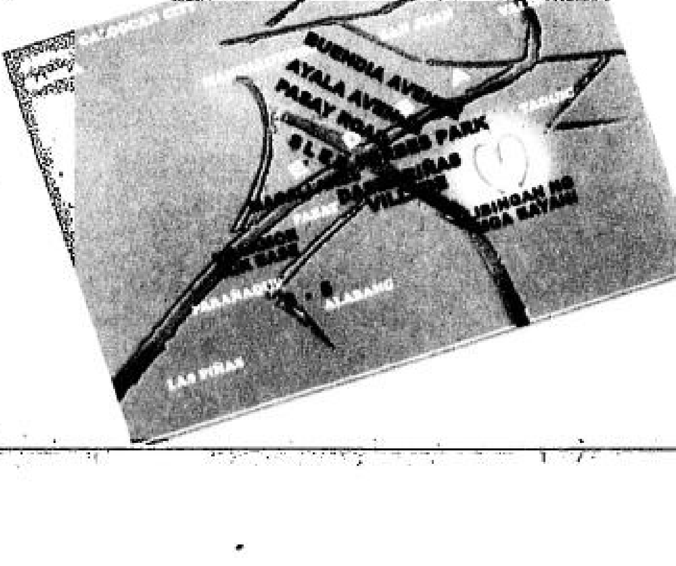
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Man behind 'Conversations with God' is author of the month

IT might be difficult to believe that National Bookstore's author of the month, Neale Donald Walsch, best-selling inspirational author, began his career when early one morning, in a fit of anger, depression and sleeplessness, he sat down and began to write an angry letter to God asking the questions: Why me? Why can't I be happy? What have I done to deserve a life of such continuing struggle?

Walsch never expected it but he got a response to his questions. Soon enough he found himself engaged in a most uncommon dialogue with none other than God. He discovered why his life was filled with trials as God unfolded answers. He jotted down these answers and that was the beginning of the best-selling inspirational series, "Conversations with God."

Growing up in a Roman Catholic household, Walsch had already encountered God in the early years of his life, but his relationship with God was never as personal as it is today. His journey toward this more personal encounter was not an easy one. Suffering setbacks such as a broken marriage, a fire that destroyed nearly all his belongings, a broken neck from a car crash and unemployment, Walsch views all his ordeals as preparation for communicating the message of his books.

Considering himself as "a communicator of God's love," Walsch says that the purpose of his life now is to "give people back themselves" by bringing them to a clearer understanding of who they really are, and of their "right relationship with God, and with each other."

Apart from the popular "Conversations with God" series, Walsch has also written "Friendship with God." His latest work, "Communion with God," still follows the same question and answer form as his previous books, but this time Walsch invites readers to go beyond conversing with God but to come into a communion with Him, which is where readers can find peace, unbounded joy and love fully expressed.

Whether or not you are a believer, these books give an enlightening perspective on life and more importantly on how finding God can change one's life.

Find Neale Donald Walsch's books at all National Bookstore Branches.

Walsch will be in Manila this June. Catch him at his book signing on June 22 at PowerBooks Megamall and on June 23 at the Meralco Theater for a special seminar. Tickets for the seminar are available at all PowerBooks branches.

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INFOTECH

LEO MAGNO, Editor

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Disini not keen on settling $2-M lawsuit vs Contreras

BY LEO MAGNO AND JOEY ALARILLA

INTERDOTNET Philippines Inc. country manager Fernando Contreras Jr. is expected to countersue fellow IT professional Joel Disini who filed a $2-million libel suit against him last May 29. Preliminary investigations on the case—filed as I.S. No. PSG 01-05-10672 at the Office of the City Prosecutor in Pasig—will start tomorrow at 2 p.m. Contreras and his legal counsel are expected to file the countersuit during the hearings.

Meanwhile, Disini—the administrator of the "PH" Philippine country-code top-level domain (ccTLD)—said that he is not keen on settling the case with Contreras.

"What he did was very malicious," Disini told the INQUIRER. Asked if he was open to any settlement, Disini said: "Not at this point."

Disini added that he has no expectations on tomorrow's trial hearings since it's his first time to sue anyone. Asked about the possibility of Contreras countersuing him, he said: "Let him file it first then we'll see what happens."

In a separate interview, DotPH spokesperson Emil Avanceña added that Disini has a strong case against Contreras.

Contreras admitted that Disini has a right to sue him, but added that he also has the right to countersue.

"It's a legal process we have to go through," Contreras told the INQUIRER. He declined to mention details of the countersuit and how much he is asking for.

Contreras is the spokesperson and one of the founders of the Philippine Domain Authority Conveners or PhilDAC, a non-profit organization which seeks to have the administration of the PH domain redelegated to it. PhilDAC has openly slammed Disini's management of the PH country domain, and has been vocal in questioning Disini's decision to use the PH domain to represent "PHone" for mobile Internet applications instead of simply representing "PHilippines."

Contreras is also the president of the Philippine Internet Service Organization (Piso), an association that counts a number of the country's Internet service providers as members. He is also the country manager of Interdotnet, a sister company of TLD administrator PSINet.

However, based on the complaint-affidavit, Contreras is apparently being sued as a private individual.

Disini is suing Contreras for "unprovoked and vicious personal and public attack" on the complainant's name, reputation and character. He is seeking $1 million in moral damages and $1 million in exemplary damages from Contreras, based on documents obtained by the INQUIRER.

According to the complaint-affidavit, the attack against Disini took place "during a presentation made by Mr. Contreras, a.k.a. JR, on March 27, 2001." Titled "An Initiative Towards a Reform of the PH Domain Administration," the PowerPoint slide show was reportedly presented during a Piso meeting. The complaint-affidavit included a printout of the presentation, attached as Annex A.

Included in the presentation was the alleged response of Disini to the request of Philnet to administer the PH domain, in a meeting between the Philnet technical committee and Disini "sometime early March 1994."

The bullet-point presentation included the entry: "Response of J.

INTERDOTNET/ p.G5

HYPERLINK

✔ A copy of the PowerPoint presentation mentioned by Disini in his lawsuit may be accessed online at http://www.malate.net/phdomainppt.

Apple CEO: 'It's cool to think different'

TANG

BY ERWIN G. OLIVA

THINKING differently means going against the tide. That is how Apple has been and will be in the future.

Unwilling to make any "forward-looking" statements (Read: vaporware) has been the policy of this company. They want to keep their loyal followers in the dark. It is only during final days before a product is launched that rumors are leaked on the Internet (allegedly by Apple itself), giving them a taste of things to come.

The company, however, has transformed itself through the years from a fledgling company into a powerhouse. But somehow, some mistakes forced the company to shed some skin.

The reported "shrinking Apple" has kept itself afloat (save for the Cube that flopped). It has remained consistent with its philosophy throughout years of roller-coaster rides.

Who would have thought of tangerine computers or clam-shaped laptops? Only Steve Jobs would have thought of naming his company after a fruit.

Apple as a company needs no introduction because, as Jobs has pointed out; it has already made a "dent on the universe."

The INQUIRER talks to Charlie Tang, Apple's new country manager in the Philippines. He has been in the IT industry for some time—

APPLE/ p.G4

Survey: Men talk more on cellular phones

ATLANTA—If a telephone is a girl's best friend, a cell phone is a boy's best friend.

Women may still dominate telephones at home, but men use their mobile phones 35 percent more than do women, a survey conducted for Cingular Wireless found.

America's second-largest mobile phone service provider said men used their mobile phones an average of 372 minutes a month, compared with 275 minutes for women.

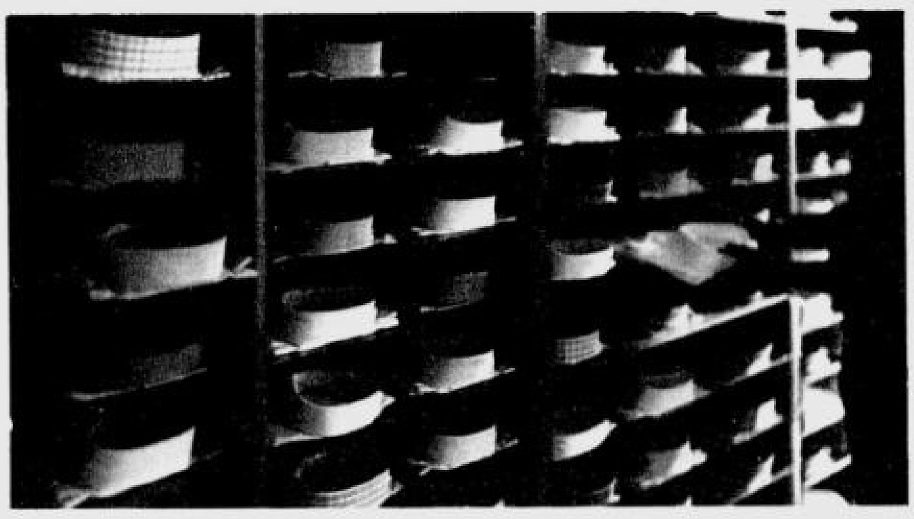
They are also the heaviest users of wireless plans with a lot of minutes.

The survey, conducted by International Communications Research, found that 20.2 percent of men use 600 minutes a month or more, significantly more than the 9.9 percent of women who use the same amount of minutes.

"The evidence is clear—men are the big gabbers of the wireless world," Greg Roberts, director of segment marketing for Cingular Wireless, said in a news release.

Cingular is a joint venture between telephone operators BellSouth Corp. and SBC Communications.

MEN/ p.G5



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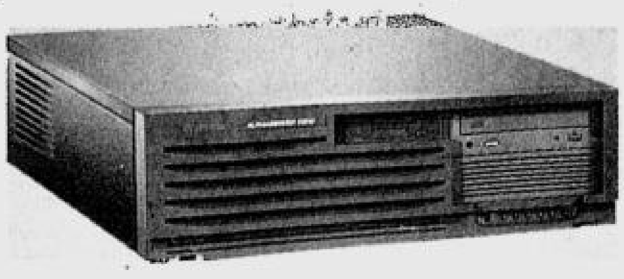

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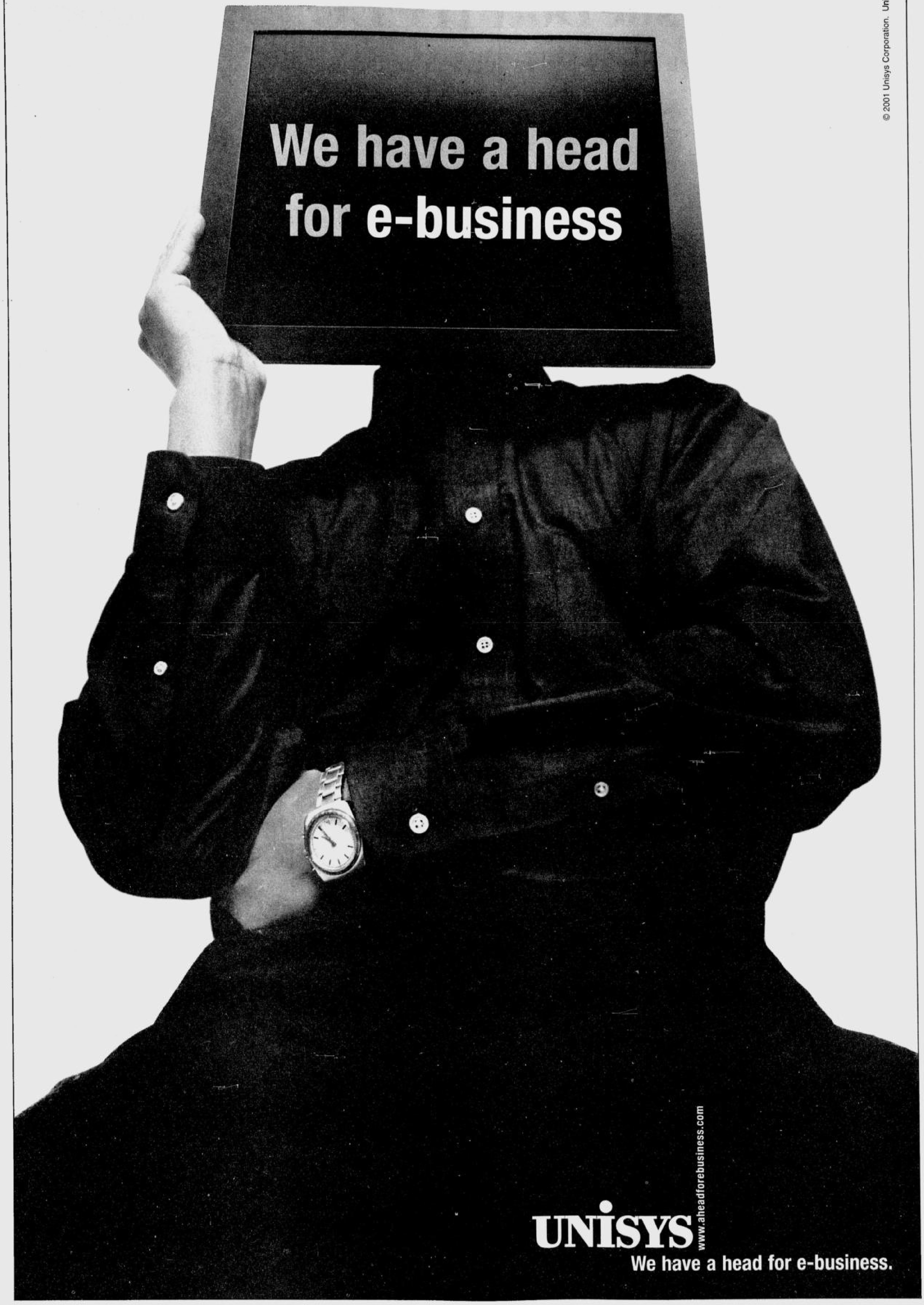
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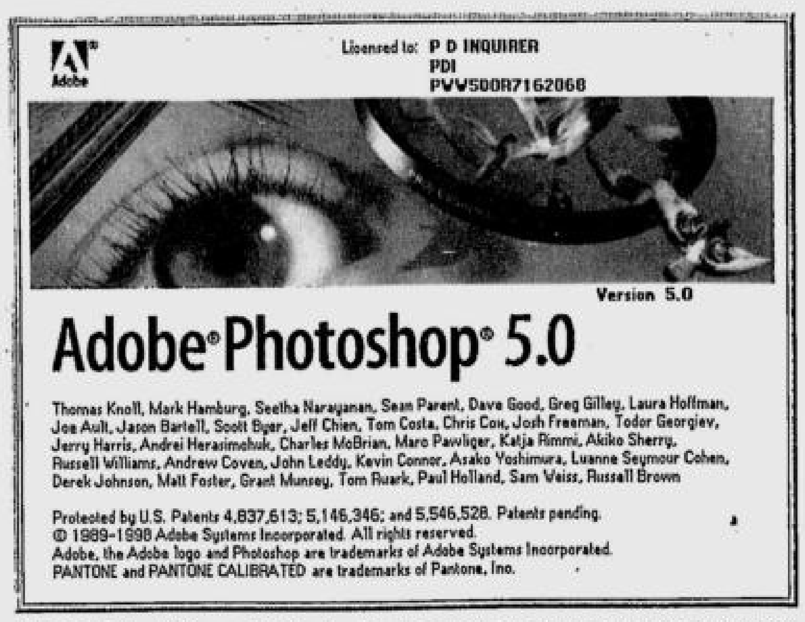

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Version 5.0

Adobe® Photoshop® 5.0

Thomas Knoll, Mark Hamburg, Seetha Narayanan, Sean Parent, Dave Good, Greg Gilley, Laura Hoffman, Joe Ault, Jason Bartell, Scott Byer, Jeff Chien, Tom Costa, Chris Cox, Josh Freeman, Todor Georgiev, Jerry Harris, Andrei Herasimchuk, Charles McBrian, Marc Pawliger, Katja Rimmi, Akiko Sherry, Russell Williams, Andrew Coven, John Leddy, Kevin Connor, Asako Yoshimura, Luanne Seymour Cohen, Derek Johnson, Matt Foster, Grant Munsey, Tom Ruark, Paul Holland, Sam Weiss, Russell Brown

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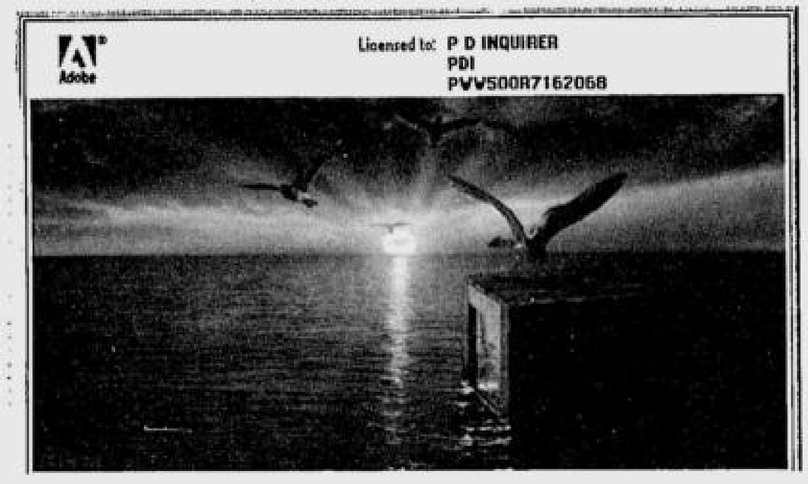
ADOBE PhotoShop will display the information above by default, but will show the one below if you know the Easter Egg command to display it.



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PhotoShop Easter Eggs

By Jerry Liao

ADOBE PhotoShop has three hidden programs in it and here's how to activate them:

Easter Egg No. 1

(1) Click on "Help" then choose "About Photoshop."

(2) Wait for the credits to start scrolling.

(3) Hold down the "ALT" key to speed up scrolling.

(4) While holding down the "ALT" key, click on the big eye in the picture.

(5) Hold down the "Ctrl" key (while still holding down "Alt" key). Release "Alt" and then "Ctrl."

(6) Some secret messages will pop up just above the scrolling credits. Read them and laugh.

Easter Egg No. 2

(1) Hold down the "Shift," "Alt" and "Ctrl" keys at the same time.

(2) Click "Help" then "About Photoshop" and a new picture will be displayed.

Easter Egg No. 3

(1) Hold down the "ALT" key.

(2) Go to "Layer Palette" and click on the arrow for the layer palette menu.

(3) Drag down and choose "Palette Options" from the menu.

(4) Merlin the little wizard will be displayed.

(5) Click on "Begone!" to hide Merlin

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Publishing in the age of the Internet

By Erwin Oliva

WHEN Apple unleashed the Macintosh back in 1984, two revolutionary concepts became a reality: personal computing and desktop publishing.

Apple introduced the Macintosh as the little but mean personal computer that could be easily placed on top of one's desk. What caught people's attention, however, was the software program that came with it: desktop publishing. In fact, years after Macintosh was introduced, it was the desktop publishing software (by Adobe) that saved the company from extinction.

The Internet, like desktop publishing, has revolutionized the publishing and graphic industry.

Back in the 1950s, American typesetting machines were used to reproduce books, newspapers and newsletters. No one thought that ordinary persons would be able to do the same scale of work with powerful personal computers.

With desktop publishing and the Internet around nowadays, imagine how the publishing industry has evolved.

Charles Gardner, director of the US Department of State Regional Printing Center in Manila, is a witness to that revolution.

Thirty years ago, he began as an apprentice master photographer. He eventually worked his way through photo labs of the National Geographic Society, commercial printing, and eventually into the US Foreign Service, which brought him to the Philippines, managing the US government's printing plant in Pasay City.

"Along the way, I had to reinvent myself several times as a photographer, photo technician, printing manager, information system designer, and Internet guru. I now find myself coming full circle, reincarnated as a digital photographer tying together things I learned 30 years ago with others I learned last week," Gardner said during the 6th Graphic Expo at the Philippine Trade and Training Center.

Gardner's experience showed how technology has empowered individuals and small companies. And that essentially what the 6th Graphic Expo this year was all about.

"Desktop publishing is a big business because of the market demand outside of the Philippines," said Kailash Ramchandani, a reseller of Apple products.

Ramchandani has customers numbering 2,000 graphic studios in Metro Manila alone. He said that a lot of graphic and publishing houses have emerged because of the demand for outsourced jobs.

The recent political instability partly caused by the Abu Sayyaf kidnappings, however, has affected the business of most local publishing houses and graphics studios, Ramchandani said.

"They've lost jobs because (foreign clients) are afraid to invest here," he added.

Norelyn Barbiera, vice president of Fiera de Manila and organizer of the Graphic Expo 2001, however, is optimistic.

She believes that the trade show's existence for the past six years demonstrated that the graphic and publishing industry is an emerging industry.

Barbiera said that Graphic Expo is a P5.5-million venture that makes at least a 15-percent net profit.

"We never have felt a slowdown in our exhibition business because we're the only one holding such an exhibition," she said.

This year, Graphic Expo featured different players in the industry involved in digital photography, creative design, digital imaging and manipulation, digital and Web publishing and printing houses.

There were 60 participants, including companies like Hewlett-Packard, Canon, Epson, Sony Gakken Philippines, Sharp and Philippine Fuji Xerox.

Microsoft settles with company to use 'Xbox'

SEATTLE—It's settled: Microsoft won't be forced to turn the Xbox into a Ybox.

The software giant on Friday reached an agreement with XBOX Technologies, a small technology holding company that will—in exchange for an undisclosed reward—alter its name and drop a challenge to Microsoft's use of the name "Xbox" for its upcoming video game console.

Details of the deal will be kept under wraps, according to the companies.

"It was a very, very mutually satisfying agreement," said Robert Koolen, vice president of marketing for Knowledge Mechanics, a computer-based education company that is the main holding of XBOX Technologies.

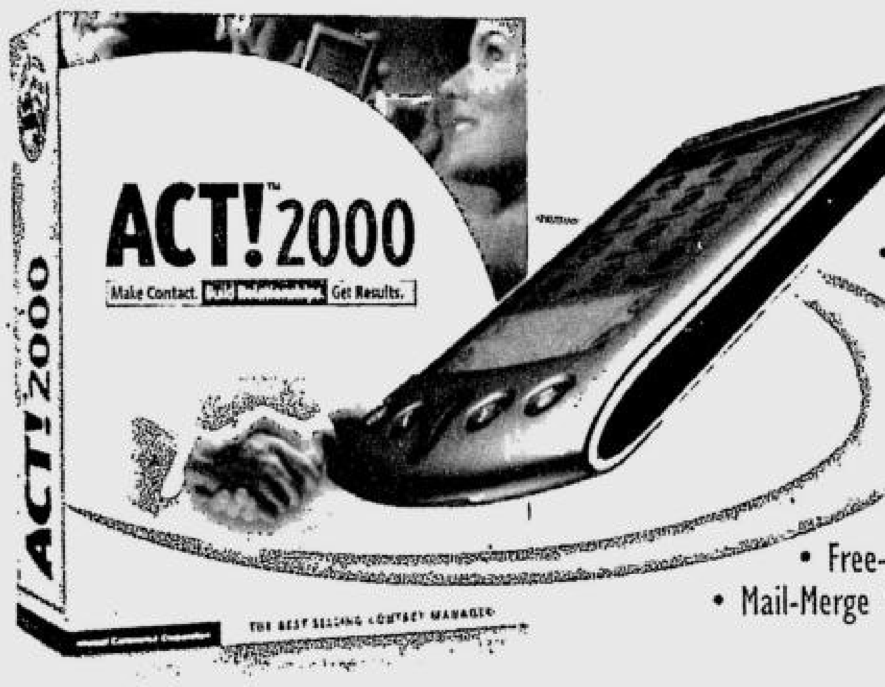
A Microsoft spokesperson could not immediately be reached for comment.

XBOX Technologies filed applications with the US Patent and Trademark Office to use the Xbox name in March 1999, more than six months before Microsoft made its first Xbox filing.

In February, the companies said they were in talks to settle the dispute and avoid a lengthy arbitration process by the patent office.

Koolen said XBOX Technologies expected to make the change next week but had not yet selected a new name or ticker symbol. It currently trades in the over-the-counter market under the symbol XBOX.

Reuters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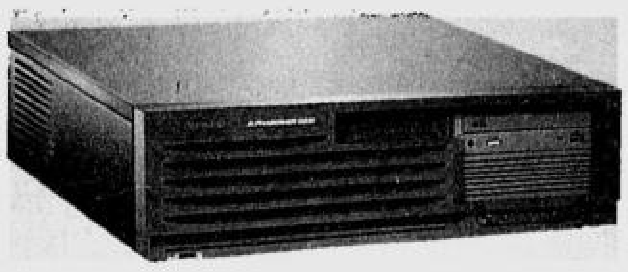

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GMA-7 signs deal with Oracle

BROADCAST company GMA Network Inc. signed Friday a contract with Oracle Systems Philippines Inc. for the purchase of enterprise resource planning (ERP) software.

ERP include different types of software that manage business processes, including financials, inventories and customer service. Usually, this software is integrated with a database system, which Oracle also provides.

In an interview, Bernard Yu, managing director of Oracle Systems Philippines Inc., said that GMA-7 will be using Oracle's financial software. A source from GMA-7 also confirmed that the software package involves the use of Oracle Financials. Yu, however, declined to give further details.

GMA-7 previously reported P2.8 billion in sales and a net income of P180 million in 2000, most of which came from advertising. It was reported that the broadcast company's sales target for 2001 would be P3.2 billion. The company expects fresh capital from the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) group.

Through Mediaquest Holdings Inc., PLDT signed with GMA-7 on Feb. 7 a memorandum of understanding for the purchase of 66.67 percent of the TV network for P8.5 billion.

GMA-7 is currently undergoing due diligence on the said purchase, which is expected to be finalized some time within August.

Erwin G. Oliva

Apple CEO: 'It's cool to think different'

(From page G1)

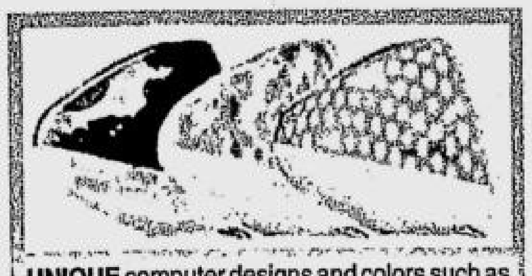
with Acer, Fujitsu and recently Motorola. He is the third country manager of Apple Philippines since 1998. He is less than a year old in Apple.

Coming from the PC world, Tang decided to take this job because he knew Apple had problems. And solving problems was a job he wanted. But that's not all. He has come to love Apple because its products are "cool" and "sexy." And being cool and sexy nowadays is what makes Apple different.

Excerpts:

Considering your background with Acer, a PC company, how do you convince people to switch to Apple now that you are head of Apple Philippines?

Tang: The challenge is how do you correct misconceptions of people about Apple computers. That's the primary challenge at hand. People say that we're expensive. We're not. People say we're difficult to use. We're not. They say we don't have software. We don't have software that is pirated by people.



UNIQUE computer designs and colors such as these iMacs show how different Apple is.

If you would look at it at a level-playing field, on an ideal environment, we do have what the PC players have to offer. It is just a matter of getting our message across to the end-user. This is one of the challenges I face when I came on board Apple Philippines.

But this is the only job where you have feelings for the product.

What do you mean by that?

Tang: With the products that Apple creates, you tend to really love their products. I can honestly say that the iBook is one hell of a product.

It's nice, sexy, and affordable. I really don't need to add flavors and spices to what I say (about the products) because we do really come up with high-quality and wonderful products. So it makes my selling job easier, in that sense. But of course there are challenges because (the Philippines) is a PC market.

The way I look at it, the market is so vast and the opportunity for Apple is so huge. We're coming out from a small market segment and market share—and getting a bigger market share is not as difficult as it would be for the other PC sellers.

When Apple approached you with this job, what was your initial reaction? What made you want to make this shift to Apple?

Tang: When they made the offer, I had to do my own research. I had to check around. One of the main reasons I took the job is that IT is my field of expertise. It was only in my previous job (with Motorola) where I got involved with telecommunications.

Second, it was the challenge of the job. When I did my research, I found that Apple had a lot of problems. But then, if there was no problem to be fixed, there is no job really waiting for you. For me, I'm a bit of a masochist in a way that I want problems. So I thought, could I fix it? If I were to sit in that position, could I fix it? I said yes.

But this is not going to be an overnight phenomenon.

You mentioned PCs benefiting from pirated software. Are you encouraging piracy of Apple software?

Tang: No. I'm discouraging people from using pirated software. The bottom line is that everybody is suffering because of pirated software. I'm just saying that in a level-playing field, we're in the same position as our PC counterparts. Apple or Mac compatible software is available but all of them are from legal sources.

If we're talking about a level-playing field, it is not really about Apple versus the branded PCs. You also have to compete with the PC compatibles or the clones. You are then in a unique position where you have to compete with both the branded PCs and the clones. How do you overcome this?

In terms of branding, people know what Apple is. Sometimes it is a disadvantage for us that our branding is so strong that they put us in a pedestal. So they perceive to be unreachable. Sometimes it works for us. Sometimes it doesn't.

In terms of Apples versus the clones, I view it in a way that every country goes through this stage. When the disposable income level is not that high, people have to settle for something that is less than their fortune. But in due time, people will realize that if you sum up the inconveniences, the headaches and time spent in terms of trying to install, reinstall, fix and reconfigure your PC, you will be spending almost equal the price of buying a branded PC.

Let's not even talk about Apple. We go back to educating the public. People buy branded PCs because of their reliability and compatibility, which they don't get from PC clones.

How do you propose to change the mindset of people in the Philippines who prefer buying cheaper, cloned PCs?

Tang: What we have been trying to do is to defer payment. We partnered with CitiBank on deferred payment of Apple computers. Leasing of computers is getting popular nowadays. People don't want capital expenditures.

So are Filipinos generally stingy people, not wanting to buy quality products?

They want quality, service at a cheap price. But it is a fact that nothing reliable comes cheap. If you buy a car, a Hyundai or a Daihatsu, would it be the same as buying a Honda or a German car?

Without being too forward-looking, what steps are you taking right now?

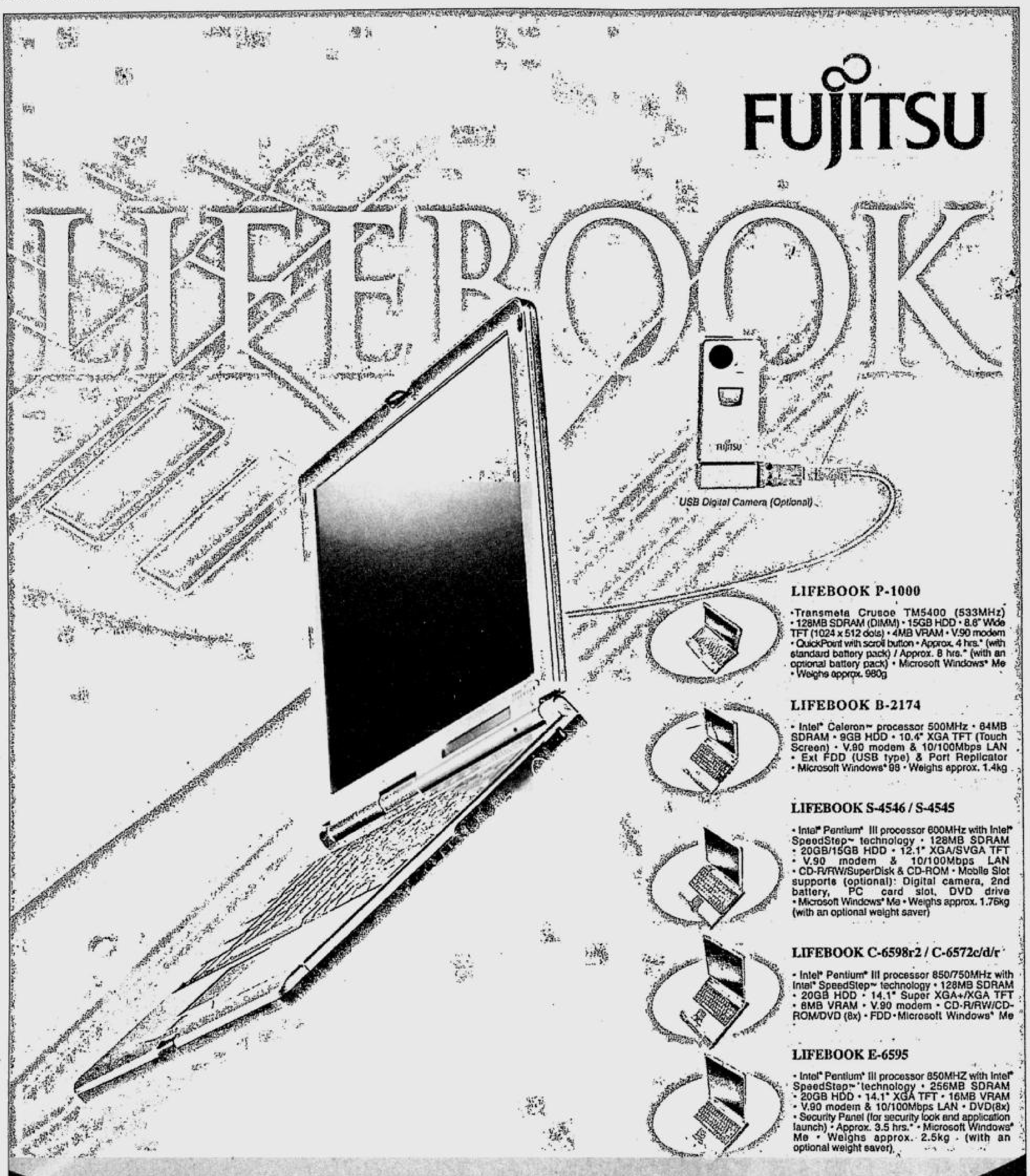
Tang: So far, what we have done in the past months was to revamp our distribution infrastructure. We had a major restructuring. You won't see the former channels that we used to have. In the next few months, we will sign in more channels in and outside of Metro Manila.

What is the ideal number of channel partners?

Tang: Just enough. I think with both of them there (MSI Digiland) we're able to provide the best service. What we intend to do is work with them well and assign second-tier channels as far as Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu and Davao. A lot of these people are hungry for support from us, which we're trying to beef up right now.

And that's another impression on Apple—that we have poor service mainly because people don't know we have authorized service centers, which we started advertising and promoting in the past weeks. We hope to set up 30

APPLE/ p.G7



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DPWH building own information highway

By Erwin Oliva

THE DEPARTMENT of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) is on the brink of crossing the digital divide.

Beginning this month, the agency will begin wiring at least 60 regional and district offices nationwide using a state-of-the-art, Internet-based communications network.

This effort is a continuation of the agency's Road Information and Management Support System (Rimms) that began in 1999 with the help of Alcatel.

Alcatel, a $29-billion data and telecommunications company, supplied the network solutions, switches, and structured cabling for the department's data hub at its head office in Manila, according to Gilbert Paggabao, president and general manager of Alcatel e-business Distribution Inc.

The DPWH spent at least $900,000 for that project. It was completed early 2000.

Late last year, the department began moving to Phase 2 of Rimms. A bid took place in November 2000 with the World Bank specifying the procedures. By January this year, Alcatel eventually bagged the $4.6-million project. The political events that rocked the country delayed implementation of the project. It was only this month that the department decided to give the project a green light.

In a briefing, Alcatel executives said that they expect to complete Phase 2 of the project in 24 months. Paggabao, for his part, said that they might finish Phase 2 of the project earlier.

The Rimms project aims to improve the department's business processes, including managing road systems and public works, according to Paggabao. The system will also include implementation of e-mail, Internet access, intranet and sharing of data and files.

"They didn't have anything in the beginning," remarked Paggabao. "This will become a model for other agencies to emulate. In fact, they might become the first agency to fulfill the government information system plan."

The DPWH's nationwide data network would be powered by Alcatel's latest Internet protocol-enabled voice communication system called Omni 4400PCX. The agency has bought 14 units of these boxes, which cost $30,000 to $40,000 each.

Interdotnet chief to countersue DotPH CEO

(From page G1)

Disini: 'What do I get in exchange?'" followed by 'Over the course of the negotiation, Disini asked for compensation for expenses (P50,000), 19.2 kbps leased line at cost, and free access to PHnet bandwidth."

"The clear implication Mr. Contreras' public and recorded statements was that I was an unethical businessman and was also engaged in extortion by demanding unreasonable consideration for services—all of which is untrue and devoid of factual basis," Disini stated in his complaint-affidavit.

The complaint-affidavit went on to state that Disini personally heard the statements since he was present during the March 27 meeting.

The complaint-affidavit added that Disini "rose immediately and repeatedly to defend myself from the malicious public imputations which took me absolutely by surprise not only because such ad hominem attacks were not proper in such a forum but also because they were untrue."

Men . . .

(From page G1)

The survey also found that women use their mobile phones for personal calls more than men, while men use their phones more for business.

These results contrast sharply with traditional phone usage at home—women use home phones 52.6 percent more than men at 510 minutes a month according to the survey.

Wireless Internet usage by both sexes were about the same. About 1.7 percent of men's calls and about 1.6 percent of women's calls were used to connect to the wireless Internet. *Reuters*

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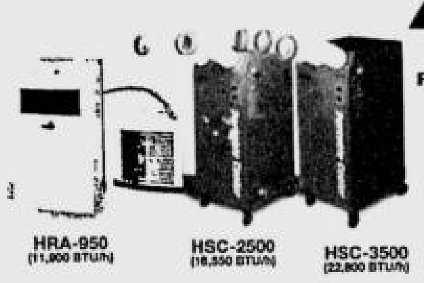

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Programme

8.45 a.m.	*Arrival and registration*
9.00 a.m.	*Welcome address by Mr. Cliff Smith* *Regional Director, Asia Pacific* *Novell Inc.*
9.30 a.m.	*"Evolution of eBusiness"* *by Mr. Tham Joon Nam,* *Corporate Business Strategist, Asia* *Novell Inc.*
10.30 a.m.	*Tea Break*
11.00 a.m.	*"Building Secure Intelligent Networks"*
	Live Demonstrations
	Question & Answer Session
12.15 p.m.	*Lunch*
1.30 p.m.	*Ends*

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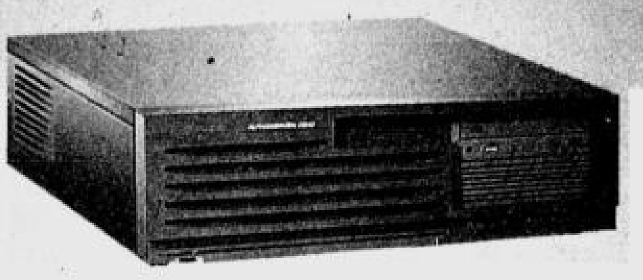

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SOFTWARE INDUSTRY UPDATES

ELLISON REUTERS

Ellison calls new database the 'Holy Grail'

REDWOOD SHORES, California—Oracle Corp. which owns the biggest piece of the world's $8.8 billion database software market, fueled the red-hot industry war with its latest release.

"We're cheaper, we're faster, we're more reliable, we have more features," Larry Ellison, Oracle's outspoken founder and chief executive, said during the product launch of its new 9i database at the company's Oz-like Silicon Valley headquarters.

The software giant has comfortably held the No. 1 spot in terms of overall database market share for several years. It extended that lead in 2000 and vows to repeat the performance this year with 9i.

"Internally, the code name for 9i is 'the last database.' We think we're going to gain a huge amount of market share," said Ellison, who added that the company also was changing its database pricing structure and offering 9i at a lower cost to users.

Oracle's new database comes as industry and financial analysts increasingly are noting that International Business Machines Corp. and Microsoft Corp. are inflicting price pressure and making gains in Oracle-dominated territory.

What's more, that once-solid ground is shifting under Oracle's feet as its flagship database business—which contributed about three-fourths of the company's total fiscal 2000 revenues of $10.1 billion—is being pinched by corporate America's move to cut tech spending as the economy slows.

During the debut of 9i, Ellison gave equal time to the shortcomings of his competitors and 9i's new key feature—clustering.

Clustering enables users to tie servers together so they can handle more transactions and data volume without slowing substantially or failing.

"This is the Holy Grail of the database business," Ellison said during his speech at Oracle's home in Redwood Shores, California.

While IBM does clustering well on mainframes, he said, IBM and Microsoft have fallen down on the Unix and Windows NT platforms.

"Microsoft and IBM have to start over now if they want to catch us," said Ellison, who added that 9i's new enhancements will allow Oracle to go after customers who have stuck with mainframe systems because of their stability and reliability.

Betsy Burton, a vice president at technology research firm Gartner Inc., said some of the market share gains by IBM and Microsoft in 2000 were the result of users' willingness to give up some of Oracle's functionality in favor of its rivals' lower prices.

But independent analyst Philip Russom disagreed.

The database markets for Unix, Windows NT and mainframe, are "different kingdoms," he said.

"Users tend to make decisions based on technology and features, not price. Sometimes, it's some funny little feature that decides the sale," said Russom, who is based in Waltham, Massachusetts.

That helps explain how little-known Progress Software Corp. wins deals with small- to medium-sized manufacturers. It's also why several large media companies favor Informix's old-style object database and why Sybase Inc., a former database powerhouse, remains a strong contender for deals with high-end financial service companies, Russom said.

"They don't choose databases in a vacuum. Businesses will decide there's a certain application they have to have. They buy whatever they have to have to get that application running," he said.

Despite the self-heralded release, company rivals and analysts had mixed responses to Oracle's new offering.

"The burden of proof still remains with Oracle," said Jeff Jones, director of marketing for IBM data management solutions.

"With the position they're taking, we feel like they're playing catch-up,"

ELLISON/ p.G7

Oracle points guns at IBM, Microsoft with release of 9i

BY ERWIN G. OLIVA

DATABASE vendor Oracle last week tried to show that it is still in charge of the multimillion-dollar database industry after releasing its latest software called Oracle 9i.

In a simultaneous global launch on Thursday, Oracle declared that it is still the No. 1 database vendor, and companies like IBM and Microsoft were mere "second class" citizens in the database market. IBM sells DB2 while Microsoft has SQL Server 2000.

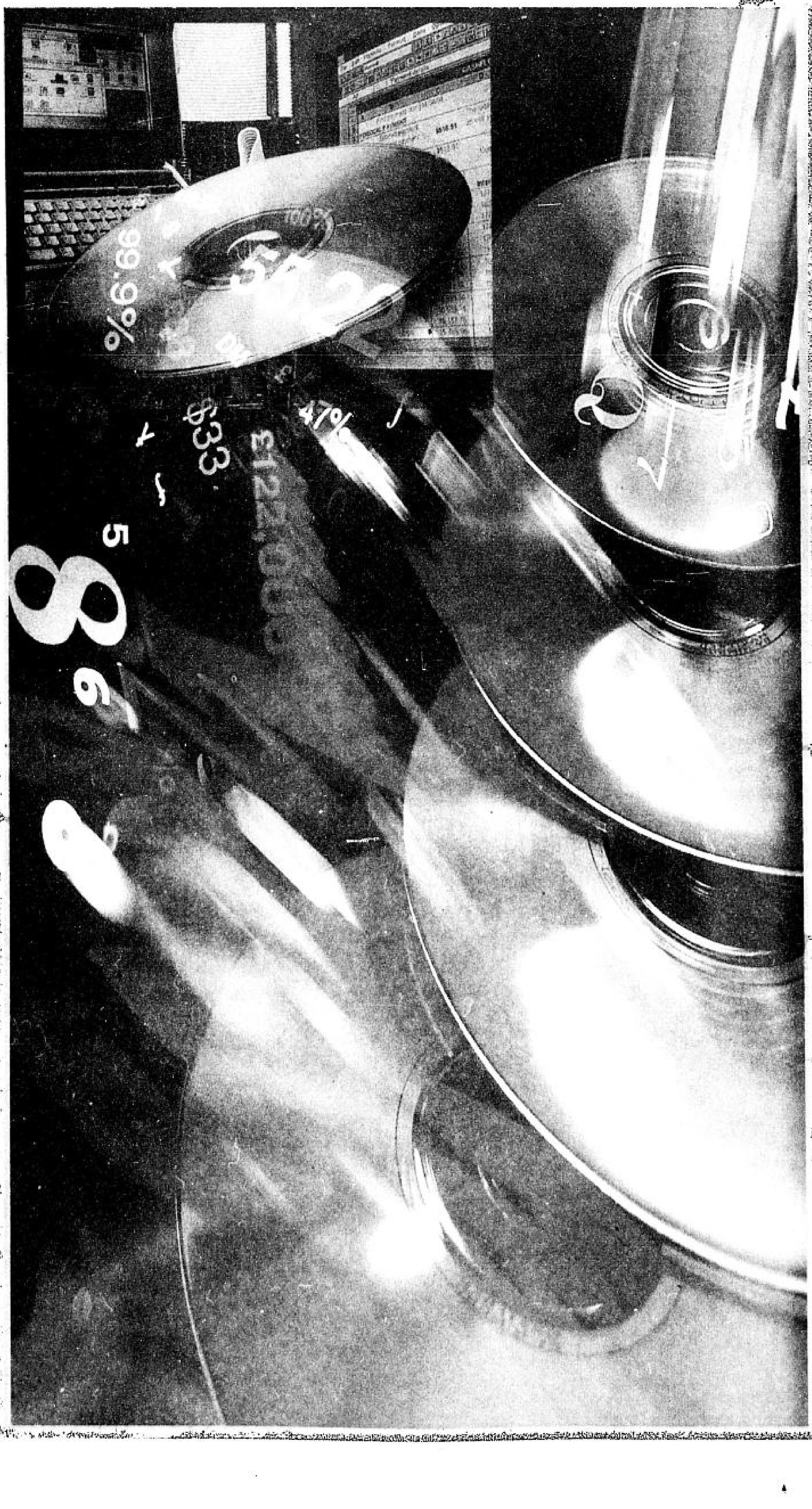
"Oracle 9i represents a new computing and economic model. We have achieved the 'Holy Grail' of database computing," Rene Bonvaine, vice president for Oracle 9i marketing, boasted in a telephone conference with Asian reporters.

Oracle's bulk of revenues come from database sales.

The "Holy Grail" database involves "limitless" scalability and almost zero downtime, according to Bonvaine. Thus, compared with its previous database software Oracle 8i, the latest release is two steps ahead of the competition, specifically IBM and Microsoft.

Here's why: Oracle has added a technology called Real Application Clusters to its latest database software. This enables companies to run a single database on a group of servers clustered together. Oracle says it took the company at least 10 years to develop this.

ORACLE/ p.G7



IBM challenges Microsoft in local software development

BY ERWIN OLIVA

TAKING a cue from the success of Microsoft Corp. in the Philippines, IBM Philippines disclosed plans of strengthening its relationship with the local software developer community.

SILVINO

"I think we have to address and pursue that strategy," said Victor Silvino, new country manager for IBM Philippines Software Group, in an interview with the INQUIRER.

Silvino now heads the new software division of IBM, which combines at least four software brands, namely Lotus, Websphere, DB2 (and Informix) and Tivoli. He served as managing director of Lotus Philippines for four years.

This early, Silvino said that his "biggest challenge" is selling the four brands without muddling the distinctiveness of each brand. At the same time, he acknowledged that tapping the local software development community would help boost IBM's software business in the Philippines.

IBM Software is now considered a $13-billion company. Since its establishment in 1995, it has become a software powerhouse, boasting that it would be the second largest software company—next only to Microsoft Corp.—if it were a freestanding firm.

Unlike Microsoft, IBM Software claims that it hopes to be known as a "cross-platform computing" company that supports open standards such as Linux, Unix and Java, to name a few.

Ironically, IBM offers support for Windows 2000. It has been in the Microsoft beta program for Windows 2000 since November 1997, and indicated that it has built extensive expertise on the new operating system.

Also, IBM focuses on creating software for business.

Software is one of IBM's top three revenue growth areas, along with services and the sale of technology. IBM claims that its software business accounts for nearly one-third of the company's total profits.

Apple CEO: 'It's cool . . .

(From page G4)

centers in Cebu, which would serve as a hub for the Visayas region. In Davao, our team is in this area training the resellers. We're assigning five to six additional service providers in that region. Surprisingly, there are a lot of Apple users in Cebu and Davao.

There were a lot of channels signed up before. There were no criteria set up before. So a number of resellers were signed up just for the heck of it or whatever reason. Upon evaluation of these resellers, we found that some of them were not ideal to do business with us.

What criteria did you use to evaluate them?

Tang: Advocacy for the product. Second, the resources they're willing to invest on Apple. Knowledge of the market. So these are all important for you to make Apple business successful for you. These are the minimum.

MSI Digiland provides the reach and the commitment.

What other action plans do you have?

Tang: We plan to win back most of the educational accounts that we used to handle. As you have known, Apple is a key player in the education market. We have started doing this and hope to be able to gain the trust of these customers. We want to help improve their curriculum and content.

Most of the schools today are stuck with Visual Basic and C++ programs. Schools don't really have to do that anymore because their graduates won't have additional advantage compared with other schools. The jobs that are waiting for them are specialized ones. They should know how to use specific software as a development tool. Gone are the days of hardcore programming. But still, 80 to 90 percent of schools are still into those hardcore programming. To us, that's where we come in. We have a package that we can offer to schools.

Could you tell us what kind of products we could expect from Apple, again without being too forward-looking?

Tang: Wait for more exciting products and innovations.

Why don't you want to make forward-looking statements?

Tang: We have to differentiate ourselves from conventional PC players. And outside of that, the attention that Apple gets and the anticipation that we build with the release of our products—these are all marketing strategies.

Microsoft's strategy is to make its software pervasive and then charge people later. What's Apple's strategy?

Tang: I'm not in a position to question Apple's policy on why we do things the way they do. Apple's position has been to come up with the best products, software, and solutions for our customers. And it just so happens that at this point in time, our chairman is still in that direction.

We're not gonna go to the direction Microsoft is taking. Apple is quite happy with the market it is covering right now. Given that in the past two-and-a-half years, our chairman literally has revived Apple again to what it has been. That means we're doing something right. No company has ever come back from almost the grave in such a short span of time.

We were bleeding, near declaring Chapter 11.

Has your experience in the IT industry helped you in your new job?

Tang: It helped me in a way that I know the (local) players. I guess on their part, they know that they're not talking to a dumb person who does not know what they're talking about. I hope. But Apple is a different company. I also have to make some adjustments because it is not a typical PC company. You have to think differently.

Does Apple pay you well?

Tang: Off the record? (Laughs) They take good care of their people. That much I could say.

Apple Philippines has gone through three country managers. Can you say that Apple Philippines is now stable?

Tang: With Apple, you either can work with the system or not. Perhaps my predecessors were not able to work within the system. For me, I'm happy with Apple. Modesty aside, we have accomplished quite a number of things in the last few months. Definitely, we're back with a vengeance.

What has kept Apple alive all through the years?

Tang: Our loyal Apple users.

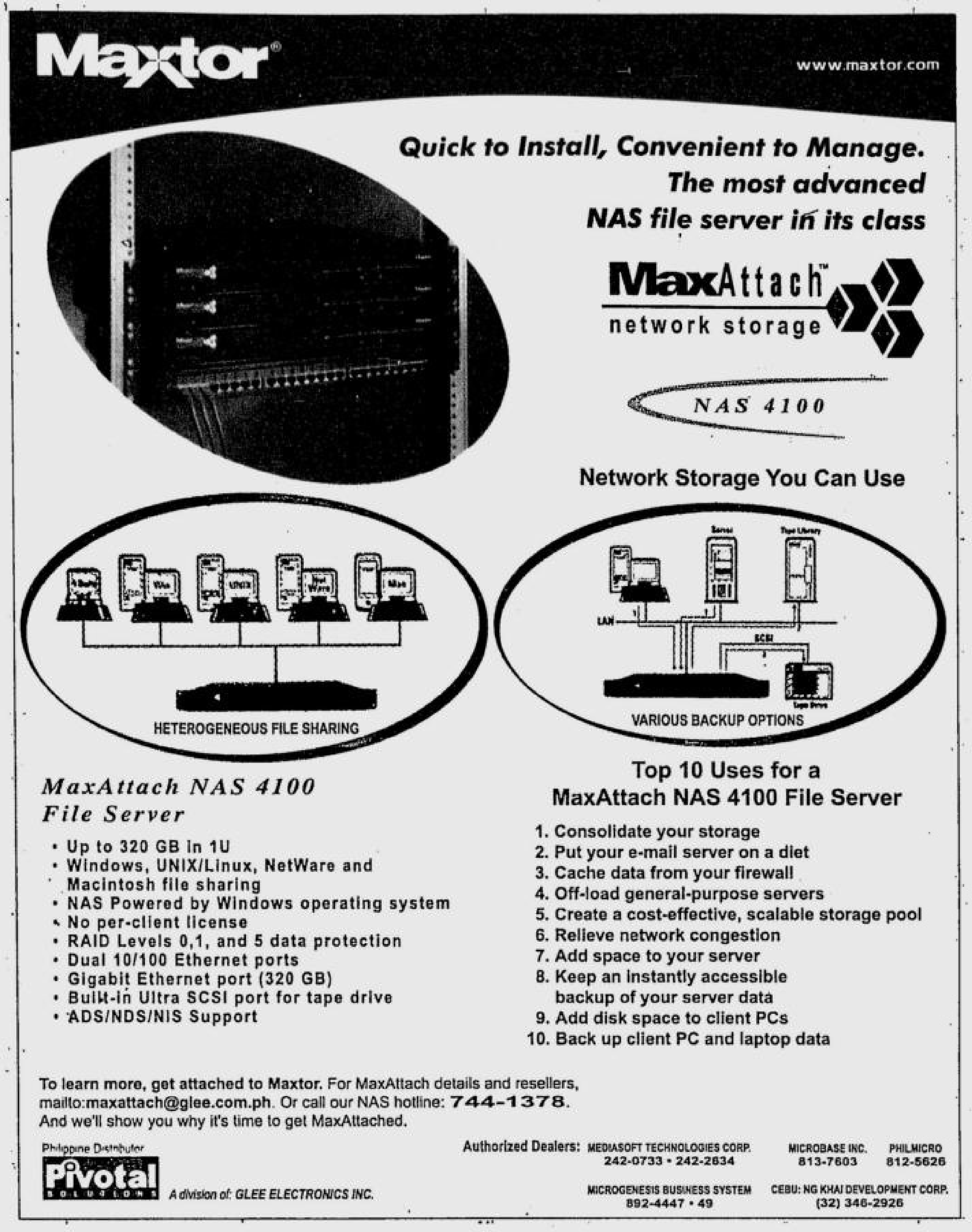
Final question. How do you transform the cool Apple into a mass-market product?

Tang:. I'm sure our CEO will continue to manage Apple the way it is being managed now. He will continue to run the company as a cool company even it is in a mass-market level. How? If times change, only he can tell.

When he speaks everybody listens.

Why can't we pre-announce products? That's just what makes us different.

And that's just makes us cool. Why do we come up with so many colors? That's just what makes us cool, that's just makes us different. And when you continue to do things differently, when you continue to do things unconventionally, you will always be perceived as cool even if you become mass-market.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Oracle . . .

(From page G6)

"It is what every company is looking for in database software. If compared with IBM's DB2, the latter has three to four years' backlog against Oracle. What IBM calls an innovation is a catch-up with Oracle," Bonvaine said.

The executive, however, acknowledged that IBM has a similar version of the Real Application Clusters. But it only runs on mainframes.

Real Application Clusters also allow applications from SAP, Siebel, PeopleSoft and others to run transparently on a clustered environment, Bonvaine added. Simply put, everything is transparent in a cluster. It's like running a cluster of machines as a single machine.

Also, when one machine fails, the rest would continue working.

Under a clustered environment, "low-cost" machines might be added to an existing cluster of machines without reconfiguring applications or redistributing data on the new machines. All these are possible because of Oracle 9i Real Application Clusters technology, the company explained.

Is that all? Apparently not.

Oracle is introducing this product under a new pricing scheme.

Ironically, the company seemed to have bowed to competition. It has adopted pricing models similar to that of IBM and Microsoft.

The pricing scheme is a big turnaround from the company's previous controversial pricing plan. In a similar event in the United States, Oracle chief executive Larry Ellison said that it has dumped its "power unit" pricing, which involved paying for more when Oracle's database software runs on more powerful processors. A change of heart, however, has forced Oracle to stick to "industry standard" pricing models of charging per processor, unmindful of processor speed.

The Enterprise edition of Oracle 9i is around $40,000 (standard edition is $15,000), while DB2 sells for around $20,000, according to Bonvaine.

In the long-term, he said that Oracle would cost less because DB2 would need more "add-on" software to work like Oracle 9i.

"For Oracle, you don't need to buy other applications. Also, you would need more hardware to run DB2. At the end of the day, IBM is priced higher than Oracle," he added.

Industry analysts, however, cautioned customers to wait for 10 months to correct "bugs" and "holes" in the new database release.

Ellison . . .

(From page G6)

said Jeff Ressler, lead product manager for Microsoft's SQL Server, which rivals Oracle on the Windows NT platform.

"I think it's a big step forward," said independent analyst Richard Winter, who attended Thursday's launch. He added that IBM's DB2 Universal Database in Unix is not as robust or mature as Oracle's database, which dominates that segment. *Reuters*

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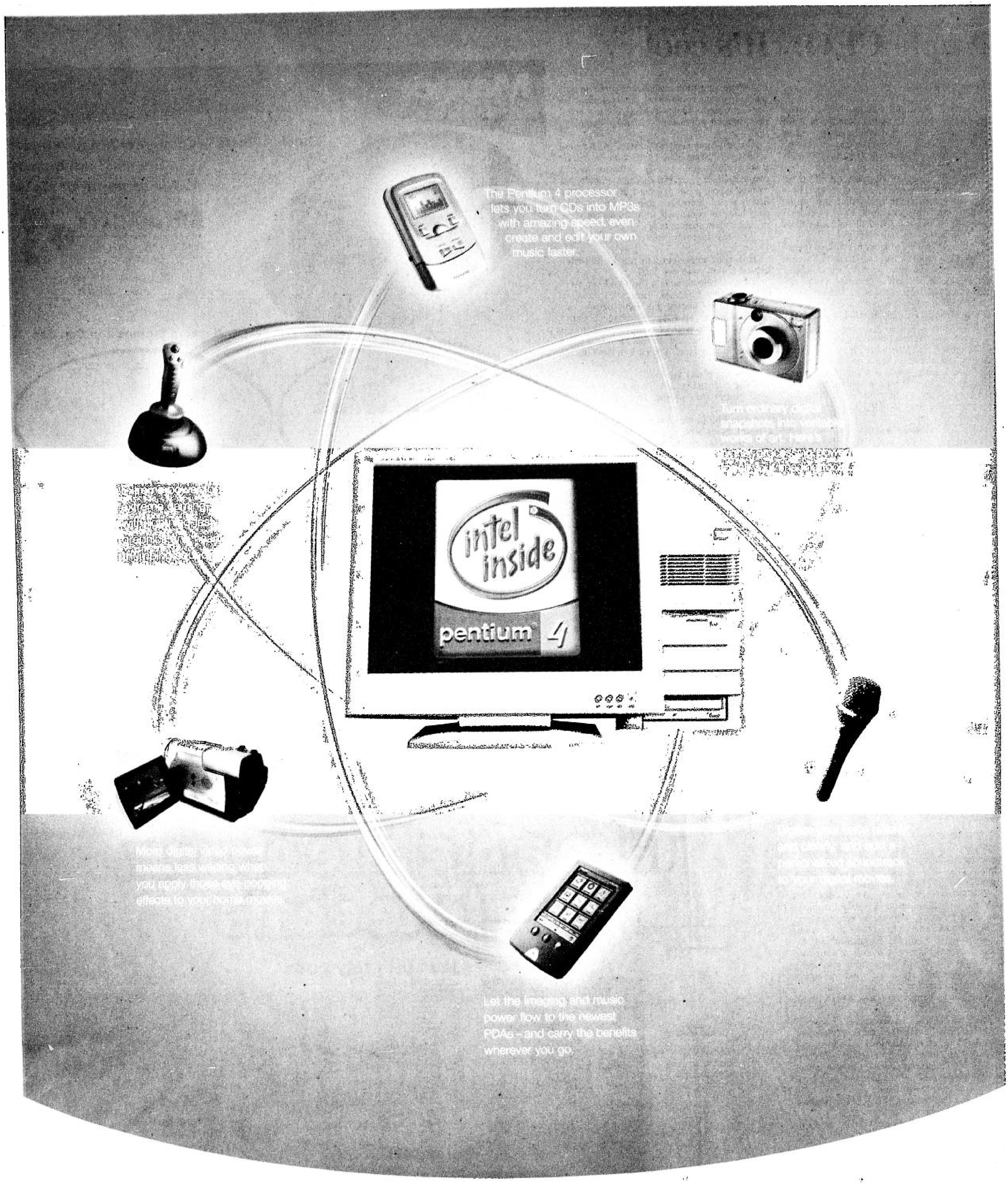
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How to take care of your wedding gown

It took a lot of time, effort and money just to have that perfect gown. So be extra careful to keep your gown in pristine condition during your wedding. But how? Read on.

HAVING gone to so much trouble to choose the perfect wedding gown, you'd probably like to keep it perfect throughout your wedding day. Unfortunately, wedding gowns are not magically protected from the little hazards of life, so if you want that perfect look to last, you'll have to take extra care. However, remember that wearing your wedding gown should be a pleasure, not a source of constant worry. Do be careful, but enjoy yourself, too!

Here are some tips for staying pristine on your wedding day.

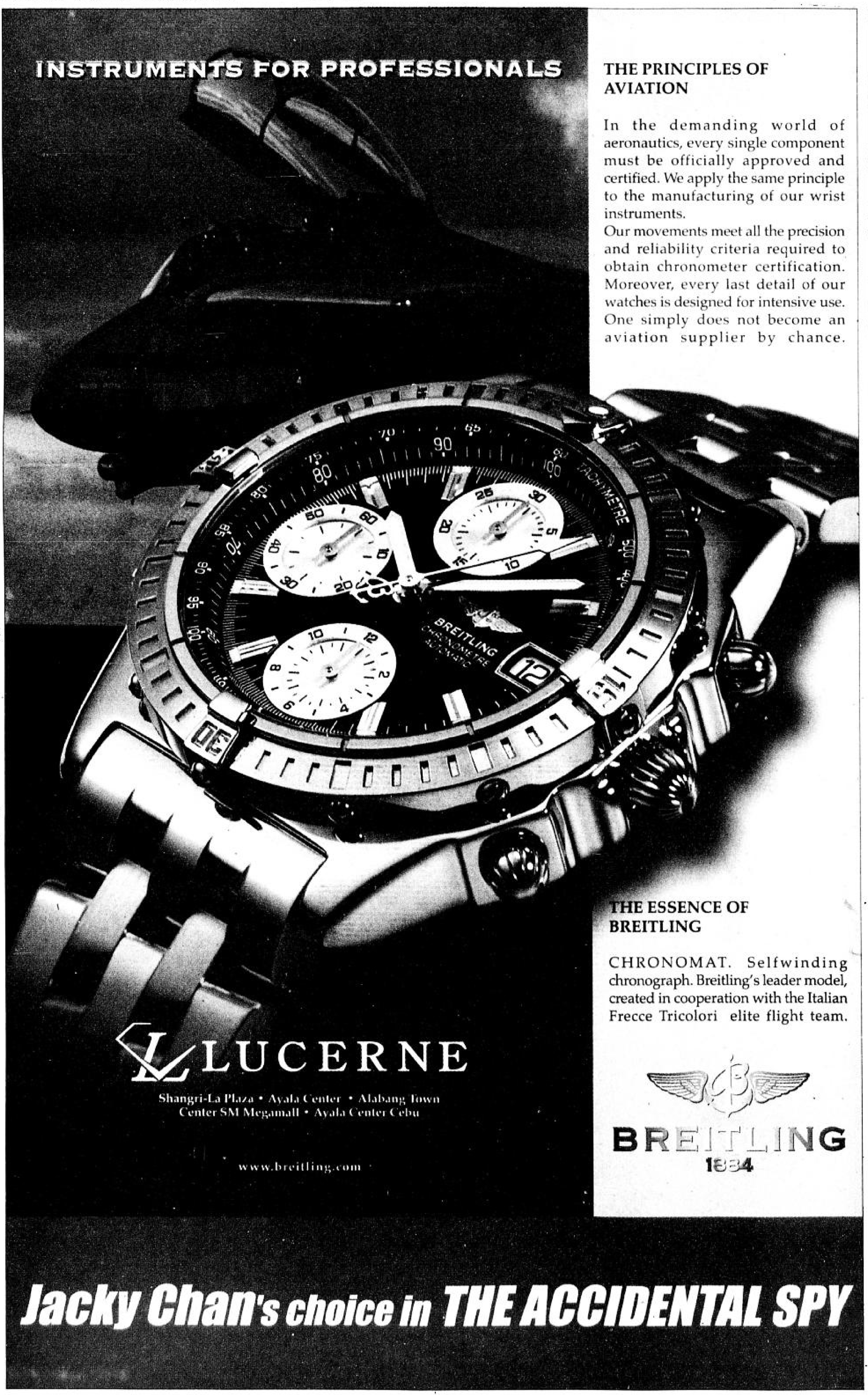
You'll probably find that the excitement of the wedding will cause you to perspire more than usual. Make sure your deodorant is also an antiperspirant; you may even consider having shields sewn into the underarms of the dress.

Some flowers have strong-colored stamens that can stain clothes, a point to remember when choosing your bouquet. If you have your heart set on such a blossom, the stamens can probably be removed. Ask your florist. Also, if you're allergic to any type of flower, let your florist know.

You'll want to touch up your makeup at some point during the day. If you think the excitement may make you clumsier than usual, consider having whoever carries your makeup for you also carry a small towel or piece of cloth to drape over your shoulders and bodice while you're applying your makeup. (A towel will also come in handy if you spill something on your dress)

Getting from house to wedding

WEDDING/ I2



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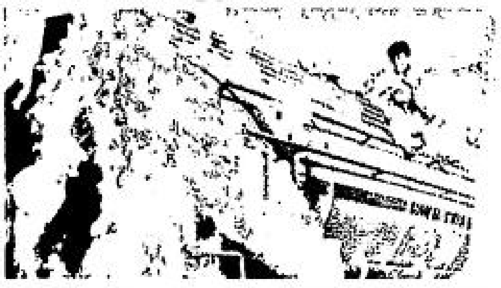
Jacky Chan's working method is legendary and he stops at nothing to ensure his every stunt is well executed. It is Jacky Chan's constant aim for perfection that made BREITLING tie-in with the superstar in his new movie The Accidental Spy.



The film, Golden Harvest's HK$200 million production, is the most expensive movie ever made in Hong Kong history. It is also Jacky Chan's first spy movie. The production took 18 months from preparation to shooting.

As the hero Buck, Jacky Chan follows his instincts to trail two suspicious looking men in an alley one normal day. When he realizes that they are robbing a jewelry store, he jumps into action to foil their plans.

Soon after, Buck meets Liu (Eric Tsang), a private investigator who convinces Buck that he may be the long lost son of a wealthy Korean businessman. In no time, Buck is on his way to fulfill his dream of adventure and fortune traveling in Korea and in exotic Turkey.

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Initially created to equip the famous Frecce Tricolori elite flight team, the CHRONOMAT has evolved constantly over the years, both technically and aesthetically, while maintaining a unique styling, originally dictated by the demands of the famous Italian pilots. The CHRONOMAT is immediately recognizable thanks to its rider-tab bezel, its horizontal profile, a comparatively unconventional yet extremely ergonomic shape, and above all, its highly legible dial fitted with instrument panel type totalizers.

In terms of its "engine" power, the CHRONOMAT lives up to its reputation, since it is "propelled" by the powerful BREITLING Caliber 13--- probably the world's first self-winding chronograph movement with regard to both reliability and precision.

Preferred by Jacky Chan in The Accidental Spy, the CHRONOMAT may be fitted with an optional auxiliary UTC watch with matching dial color. This second time source, which is electronic and independent of the main watch, provides the time in a second time zone or UTC universal time.

How to take care of your wedding gown

(From page I1)

site pristine and uncrumpled is not that difficult. Advance planning is the key. First, know the condition of the vehicle you plan to arrive in.

Delegate someone to ensure the area where you will be sitting is spotless, and perhaps to spread a clean white sheet over the seat and floor prior to your embarkation.

Especially in wet weather, be extra careful when getting in and out of cars. (You may wish to cover the floor of the car with a sheet.) When going outside, take the moment you need to gather up your long skirt to keep the hem off the ground.

Be cautious as you walk up stairs or enter doorways, and don't be embarrassed to ask for assistance.

If you're concerned that your train is going to wrinkle a lot en route to the ceremony, have someone from the wedding party bring along a travel iron or steamer (depending on the fabric of your gown) and an extension cord. Your helper can quickly smooth out any skirt and/or train wrinkles on the spot.

The best of all possible options is to change into your gown at the wedding site. Should you go this route, keep these tips in mind: if you must pull the gown over your head, cover your face with a tissue to avoid getting makeup on the neckline/collar; static electricity can instantly cover the train of a gown in dust and carpet fibers, so spread a clean bedsheet on the floor of your dressing area.

The reception, of course, is where accidents are most likely to occur. Be aware of the obvious dangers; don't, for example, lean so far over the buffet table that your dress dips into the gravy.

No matter how cautious you are, you probably can't avoid every possible mishap, so be prepared for spills. Be sure to inquire when you buy your dress about the best way to spot-clean it should an accident occur. It is often best to leave it alone (although sometimes you can minimize the appearance of a spot by blotting – not rubbing – the fabric) and advise the cleaner afterwards so that it can be properly treated. Wine or champagne spills, though, should be looked after immediately: put a towel under the fabric and blot the top with a damp cloth wrung out in a solution of white vinegar or detergent and water, then blot dry to prevent a ring.

When you change into your going-away outfit at the reception, you'll need something to put your wedding gown in. Whoever brings your clothes for you should also bring a bag for the gown – a large garment bag, perhaps, or the bag it was in when you got it from the salon. If you plan to wear your gown to your hotel, pack the garment bag with your overnight things. *(From Weddingbells Webzine)*

No matter how cautious you are, you probably can't avoid every possible mishap, so be prepared for spills

FAQs about bridal salons

How do I find the right salon for me?

Narrow down your choice by browsing through any local bridal publications and noting the advertisements for salons featuring gowns that suit your personal style. Word-of-mouth recommendations are also very helpful. Seek out those salons that have given excellent service to past brides with whom you're acquainted. Note: some bridal salons specialize in plus-size bridal fashions and may have larger sample sizes.

Try to limit your shopping to three or four salons; it's very easy to become extremely confused and frustrated trying to remember which gowns were where. (Tip for keeping track: take along an instant camera and write notes on your snapshots as you take them.)

When should I start visiting bridal salons?

The timing of your salon visits is very important. Many brides leave their gown shopping far too late and then are disappointed when manufacturers are not able to meet the tight deadline.

Four or five months prior to the wedding date is the very latest a bridal salon can serve a bride; six months to a year in advance is the norm and ensures enough time for delivery of the right gown and proper alterations. Similarly, dresses for your bridesmaids must be ordered at least eight weeks in advance. If given less notice than that, the manufacturer may add a surcharge that will be passed on to you.

Do I need to make an appointment?

Although there are some salons that don't require appointments, most recommend that you make one, especially during peak shopping times like evenings or Saturdays, so you'll be certain to receive the consultant's full attention and service. It's always best to telephone first to find out whether an appointment is required.

What should I expect when I arrive for my appointment?

Expect each appointment to be no longer than one hour. Arrive prepared to tell the salon's bridal consultant what kind of wedding you're having (formal or informal, traditional or modern); this kind of information will help her to suggest appropriate styles for you. Also, have a frank discussion with her about your budget; do not be embarrassed to tell her how much you want to spend, so she won't waste time showing you gowns well out of your price range. *(From Weddingbells Webzine)*

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The groom's role

IN THE not-too-distant past, grooms-to-be weren't included in the decision-making for their own weddings, often because they had no inclination to take part. Times have changed, and so have grooms. Today's groom regards his engagement as a partnership. He is just as likely to supervise the decorating of the wedding cake as to buy the airline tickets for the honeymoon. Besides, when you're looking forward to a marriage of equality, and a celebration that you're probably helping to pay for, it makes sense that you should be involved in the wedding planning.

Start by making it known that you want to be included in decisions and work parties. Have a couple of good, long brainstorming sessions with your fiancée. Narrow down your likes and dislikes and set parameters: once the wedding planning gets into high gear, more and more compromises will blur your initial goals. If the two of you have a strong, united sense of what you want, then you'll weather these changes without regrets.

Getting started

Consult with your fiancée to organize a plan of attack and divide up responsibilities. When deciding which jobs to do, focus on your areas of expertise.

You may even choose tasks that fall into the legendary realm of the bride, such as ordering the flowers or choosing the bonbonnières or favors. Consider yourself a blazer of trails for grooms yet to come.

Keep all notes, quotes, and receipts together. Liaising often with your fiancée is imperative in order to keep on track with deadlines and budgets. Look for leads on wedding products and services; use your network of friends, relatives, and colleagues for word-of-mouth recommendations. However, always personally check out a source: relying on someone else's opinion can be hazardous.

The invitations, flowers, wedding clothes, cake, reception menu, limousine, and keepsakes all tangibly reflect the personal style of, ideally, both the bride and the groom, so contribute as much as you can to the choice and, in some cases perhaps, the manufacture of them. Your input is equally important at the gift registry; you'll be using the tableware, appliances, and so on, for a long time, so make sure you're involved in choosing them.

Choosing your wedding party

You can have your best friend (male or female), your brother, your sister, your father, even your grandfather, as your best man (or "honor attendant," if female) if you so desire. You can even have two honor attendants, rather than one best man. This role entails a lot of responsibility, so choose someone who is reliable, hard-working, and a real swell guy (or gal).

He (or she) will be a lot of help to you with some of the bigger jobs requiring a good second opinion and/or another pair of arms or set of wheels. Two-man tasks might include checking out formalwear, limousines, catering equipment, and hotel accommodations for out-of-town guests, picking up liquor orders, and helping to decorate the ceremony and/or reception sites.

The traditional rule of thumb is that there should be one usher for every 50 guests. However, it is not necessary to have an equal number of ushers and bridesmaids. Not always do good friends and honored relatives measure out equally between bride and groom. Every wedding procession can have its distinctive style. If there is one more usher than maids, for instance, perhaps one maid can precede a pair of ushers, or the ushers can both escort the maid, one on either side of her. Don't compromise your wedding party selection for the sake of symmetry.

The groom's traditional duties

Some of these may no longer be solely the groom's responsibility; for instance, the modern bride will probably want to have a say in the honeymoon plans and participate more actively in the toasts/speeches.

- Choose your wedding party (best man and ushers)
- Organize your family's part of the guest list.
- Organize and pay for the marriage license.
- Buy thank-you gifts for the best man and ushers.
- Organize the honeymoon.
- Make sure the best man has the checks, in envelopes, to be given to the officiator, the musicians, and anyone else rendering a service to be paid for immediately after the ceremony.
- Get to the wedding ceremony on time.
- In the receiving line, stand at your bride's left and accept congratulations graciously and with brevity.

The groom is usually the second person to propose a toast. After the master of ceremonies has toasted the bride and groom, the groom rises, thanks the MC, and then proposes a toast to his bride. He also responds to toasts to the bridal couple.

Cut the cake with your bride. (The groom usually holds the cake knife, with his bride's hand poised on top of his.)

Join your bride for the first dance, then dance with various relations: first your mother-in-law, then your mother. (After that, as you dance with the maid of honor, the best man should dance with the bride, and the ushers should join in with the bridesmaids.) ***(From Weddingbells Webzine)***

A Better Bedtime for the Bride of June

Every year in the month of June there comes an unusual flurry. White icing and silver wrapping abound in an outbreak of matrimony. You've furnished your share of punch bowls and ashtrays. You'd like to bequeath an offering that's useful but with taste. With weddings here and anniversaries there, what present has that added flair? What gift would delight both blushing June Brides and spirited Golden Girls? Whether newly-weds or marriage vets, the **Home Expression Mattress Enhancer** is just the thing. It enhances mattresses and enhances marriages! All they need to do is lay it on top of their mattress or bed cushion to enjoy maximum mattress enhancement. Giving more comfort than a comforter, they'll feel its soft, plushy goodness from inside to outside. Each **Mattress Enhancer** is meticulously handmade and hand-quilted then generously filled with hypoallergenic fiberfill. No more dirt, lint, and odor worries with their mildew-resistant 100% natural cotton covers.

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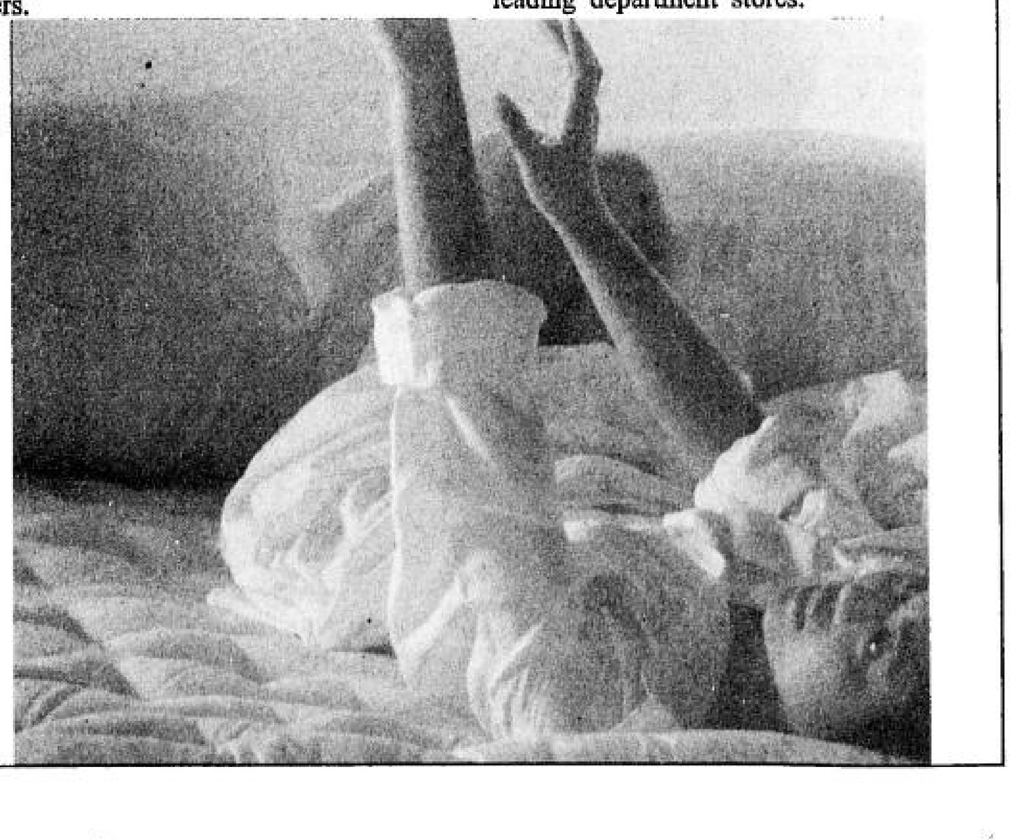

GEORGINA Padilla y Zobel receiving the presidential medal of Merit from Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus in 1992. With her is husband Luis Mac-Crohon.

PAINTER Fernando Zobel (right) with King Juan Carlos at the inauguration of the Museum of Abstract Art in Cuenca, Spain in 1966. Zobel founded this museum.

The saga of the Premio Zobel

(From page I4)

the Cavite Mutiny for his German origin and his collection of imported hunting rifles. He was jailed for six months and was released with the help of the German government.

It wasn't that Don Jacobo was not loyal to Spain. He was impatient with vacuous personalities and derided authority figures and even governor generals who did not match his intelligence.

Don Jacobo co-founded the Banco Espanol Filipino. He was also a distributor of iron that was supplied by the makers of the Eiffel Tower. From that iron business, he built the first modern bridge, the Ayala bridge, across the Pasig River. He also introduced bicycles in Manila. He also introduced the *caballero* or fire tree in the Philippines and had them planted in the main streets and the first *tranvia* or cable car.

Don Jacobo was passionate about his work. He was strong willed and resolute, he disliked the *dolce far niente* or lackadaisical attitude. He wanted to train the Filipinos in mechanics and he wanted them to advance their education so that they could be independent. He considered the Filipinas as astute women and the *alma del hogar* or the moving spirit in the family.

When Don Jacobo died of an intestinal disease at the age of 54, the Spanish ministry considered his passage a great loss.

GLORIA and Alejandro Padilla

Chip off the old block

His son Enrique was described as *de tal palo, tal astilla* or chip of the old block. Aside from expanding the Zobel de Ayala companies and supporting literature through the Premio Zobel, he was also a philanthropist.

Enrique studied at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran and obtained a bachelor of arts degree at the Real Colegio de Alfonso XII in Spain. He took up advanced studies in Paris. While studying mining and engineering in Sorbonne he also studied painting under Louise Glieze. When he returned to the Philippines, he worked for the family business, Casa Ayala y Cia, which had been established by his great grandfather, Johann Andreas Zobel, in 1834.

DON Enrique Zobel de Ayala (1877-1943), business leader, academician, patron of the arts and founder of the Premio Zobel.

Enrique established the first porcelain company in 1903 and later founded a glass factory. He consolidated his father's businesses and expanded to other businesses such as pharmacy, distillery and insurance. He was a director in many firms that covered insurance, construction, sugar and banking.

He developed a plain of ricefields into the country's most progressive business center, Makati. Aside from business, Don Enrique also supported the arts. A patron of Fernando Amorsolo, he sent the talent to school in Spain. In return for the scholarship, Amorsolo gave his son Fernando painting lessons. Fernando Zobel later on became one of the country's finest modernists.

Preservation

The Americans started the English language in schools. Slowly Hollywood movies were coming in. Don Enrique had one obsession: to preserve the links between the Philippines and Spain through language and culture. He helped establish the National Museum and donated Spanish books to the University of the Philippines library.

He financed a school in Quiapo that offered Spanish language. He also completed the construction of the Metropolitan Theater, which was the home of operas and *zarzuelas*.

Don Enrique approved of Don Vicente Singson's petition to establish a school in Ilocos that aimed to promote Spanish language and culture. When hero Diego Silang's monument was erected, his inscription was dedicated in Spanish.

In 1920, the establishment of the Premio Zobel became the culmination of Don Enrique's dream to promote Spanish language in the country.

"The *illustrados* such as Jose Rizal and famous poets such as Balmori, Bernabe and Zaragoza wrote in Spanish. If you read the words in another translation, even though it's a good one, you lose the *cadencia*. My grandfather dreaded the fact that scholars wouldn't read the original version. That's why he founded the Premio," explains Georgina.

Don Enrique wrote columns and editorials in the business paper El Mercantil. Because of his insightful essays, he was given the Isabel la Catolica del Merito Civil.

Family tree

In 1901, at the age of 24, Enrique married his cousin, Consuelo Roxas de Ayala. The marriage produced three children—Jacobo, Alfonso and Mercedes. Consuelo died of cholera in an epidemic.

At 33, the widower Fermina Montojo de Torrontegui, the niece of the Spanish admiral who lost the Philippines to the Americans. The union produced Matilde, Consuelo, Gloria and Fernando. Fermina was loved even by her stepchildren who considered her as their mother.

Mercedes married Col. Joseph McMicking, the chief intelligence officer of Gen. Douglas McArthur. McMicking developed Makati into the most affluent city in the country. Jacobo was a colonel and a hero in the Bataan Death March. He was the father of business leader Enrique Zobel (Enzo). Alfonso, a businessman, was the father of Jaime Zobel de Ayala, chair of the Ayala Corp.

Matilde died of cancer. Consuelo married Gen. James Alger, the youngest four-star general in the Pentagon and son of philanthropist Horatio. She established a foundation that supports indigent Filipinos in Hawaii. Painter Fernando Zobel established the Museum of Abstract Art in Spain. Georgina's mother Gloria married Ricardo Padilla who was born in San Sebastian, Spain and was a director in Tabacalera.

Consolidation

Every year Georgina and Ricardo return from Spain to organize this event. This year was made more special with the book launch. Already there have been requests for an English translation.

To qualify for the awards, the candidate must be fluent in Spanish and the material must be set in the Philippines. The works are judged by members of the Academia Filipina, an organization that promotes Spanish in the country. The awarding ceremonies were originally held at the Casino Español and were later moved to the Ayala-owned Hotel Intercontinental. The criteria have widened it scope. One need not produce a body of literature in Spanish. The Premio also acknowledges Filipinos who have championed the Spanish language such as Blas Ople.

"Anybody can be a candidate. The requisite is that one should be a Filipino," Georgina says. Guillermo Gomez of the Academia Filipina, the body that judges the literary works, and longtime master of ceremonies of the Premio Zobel, says the book gives a bird's eye view of Spanish literature and language in the Philippines. "It contains materials that other books don't offer," he says. He adds that the book gives the most objective explanation of the secularization of parishes and the Zobel's involvement in the intellectual revolution.

Heber Bartolome art exhibit in Berlin

FORMER President Fidel V. Ramos opened the "People Power at Samut-saring Alaala ng Bayan Kong Sinta," a painting exhibition by nationalist Filipino artist Heber Bartolome, recently at the Philippine Embassy in Berlin, Germany.

Bartolome was a Pinoy rock singer in the mid-'70s who popularized socially relevant songs. The exhibit's theme was aptly expressed in his centerpiece, "Ang Bayan," a 5x14' oil on canvas, which he completed in 1983, three years before the historic People Power revolution in 1986.

Ramos, assisted by Dr. Gabriele von Malsen-Tilborch, director of cultural and educational affairs of the Federal Foreign Office, and Ambassador and Ms Jose Abeto-Zaide, unveiled "Ang Bayan." Guests during the exhibit's opening included German government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, the Filipino community in Berlin, the media as well as gallery owners.

Before coming to Berlin, Ramos was in Munich for three days where he met with the Vice Minister President of the Free State of Bavaria, the Minister of the Interior and the Whip of the Christian Social Union in the German Bundestag. The former president also held discussions with the private sector—Siemens AG, BMW, ABB Germany, Hypo Vereinsbank and the Komrowksi Group. His visit to Munich was organized by the Hans Seidel Foundation.

During the Europe-Asia Forum 2001 ("Asia and Europe Partnership in the 21st Century"), Ramos gave the keynote address on the topic "Political Dialogue between Asia and Europe after Seoul."

The forum brings together leading European and Asian representatives from various sectors. Held for the first time in Singapore in 1998, its goal is to further the political, economic and cultural dialogue between the two regions. Other prominent leaders who participated in the forum included former Prime Minister of France Michel Rocard, former UK Secretary of Foreign Affairs Lord Douglas Hurd, Minister of Foreign Trade Kimmo Sasi of Finland, M.R. Chatu Mongol Sonakul, governor of the Bank of Thailand.

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THE PINIKPIKAN Band

Spanish Embassy has a new look

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

YOU may have heard that the Spanish Embassy has a new look. If not, there's no time like the present to take a look at it. **Anna Olondriz**, the decorator of choice of a lot of ritzy ladies with discreet and low-keyed taste, redid the residence with lots of comfortable sofas in off-white and absolutely gorgeous swags of curtains sweeping the floors, as well as lots of greenery and tropical wicker in the porch.

There were lots of Tisays such as **Conchita Toda**, **Nena Casimiro** and **Mila Wales** at the elegant soirée hosted by newly arrived Spanish Ambassador **Tomas Rodriguez Pantoja**, but none had lots of arm hair, as reported by a certain journalist.

People are still talking about the gastronomic feast laid out by La Tienda with everyone going for the burnt part of the *paella*, miles of *jamon serrano* and those gorgeous *chorizos*—sigh, another inch on the hips. **Georgina**, a.k.a. Zobel-Padilla-Mac-Crohon, was there with good friend **Marilou Lovina** and the other classmate, **Conchitina Sevilla Bernardo**, with **Lani Paz Yuchengco** rushed in and out for the opening of the new Rep show missing Sandigan Bayan Judge **Francis Garchitorena**, who's suddenly everyone's favorite source of information about "The Trial."

The Latins were there in full force with Brazil charge d'affaires **Carlos Carvalho** getting into the spirit and singing "Brazil"—what else? The lovely Venezuelan Ambassador **Milena Ramirez** and Portugal's new Ambassador and Mme. **Joao Da Silva**, Argentina's chargé d' affaires **Alberto Kan** were joined by Belgian Ambassador **Roland Remoortele**, Swedish Ambassador and Mme. **Ulf Hakansson** and scads of glamorous others.

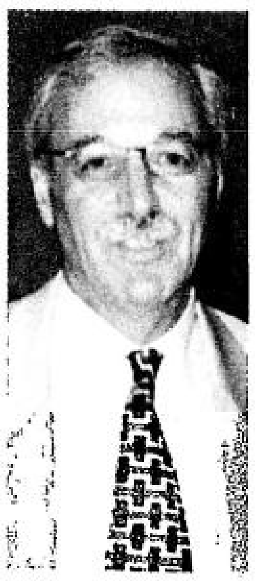
New folk CD

The Pinikpikan Band launched its latest CD titled "Obra Encantada" on May 21 at the Carlos Romulo Auditorium of the RCBC Plaza with French Ambassador **Gilles Chouraqui** as guest of honor and members of the Diplomatic Corps such as Spanish Ambassador Tomas Pantoja, Venezuelan Ambassador Milena Ramirez and Israeli Ambassador **Irit Ben-Abb** attending.

Last year, Pinikpikan's "Atas" CD received five awards, including Album of the Year, from the Katha Organization of Filipino Composers. The percussion band had its origins in Baguio City's Café by the Ruins and as a matter of fact it was artist **Bencab** who gave them their name.

"Obra Encantada" performance featured compositions in different languages, namely Tagalog, Cebuano, Ilonggo, Kinaray-a, Tingguian/Itneg and Tsabakano directed by rock guitarist **Sammy Asuncion** with powerful chantress **Carol Bello** bringing the house down with her Indian-inspired singing technique. Proud mama of **Boy Yuchengco** of Tao Music, Paz Yuchengco, was on pins and needles waiting for Boy's latest ouvre and making sure everyone had what they needed.

SPANISH Ambassador Tomas Pantoja and Paz Yuchengco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JUSTICE Francis Gachitorena and Spanish Ambassador Tomas Pantoja

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The saga of the Premio Zobel

BY MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ

WHEN *pax Americana* came to the Philippines visionary businessman and philanthropist Enrique Zobel expressed his desire, "*No quiero que el español muera en Filipinas.* (I don't want Spanish to die in the Philippines.)"

Perhaps because of his wish, Spanish is still alive. In 1929, the Premio Zobel was established to honor the best in Philippine letters in Spanish. It continues as the only prize in Asia that advocates Spanish language. Spanish continues to be assimilated to the vernacular: to date, there are some 2,000 words in Spanish that have been assimilated in the Filipino. Of course, this is a far cry from former times, especially in the first half of the 20th century, when this Romance language was the lingua franca of government and the elite.

Today the Premio Zobel is organized by the third generation, Georgina Padilla y Zobel and her brother Alejandro, and Nenuca Sinjuan, the secretary of Ricardo Padilla. The Padillas have been handling the Premio since 1985.

The history of modern Filipino literature in Spanish is practically told in the book, "Años del Premio Zobel (Premio Zobel Years)," written by Professor Lourdes Brillantes, a Hispanista and a Premio Zobel winner in 1998. The book was a project of the Spanish Embassy, initiated by then Ambassador Delfin Colomé, and the Fundacion Santiago for the Philippine Centennial.

The book chronicles winners of this prestigious literary award, the history of the Spanish language in the Philippines and the story of the Zobel family, which Georgina says has close links with our history.

Georgina has been studying the family tree by researching in the archives. The Zobels originally came from Denmark and migrated to Hamburg, Germany. Contrary to perception, the Zobels were not Jewish. Records showed that the three generations of Zobels were baptized, married and buried in Protestant churches in Hamburg.

DOÑA Fermina Montojo (vda. de Don Enrique Zobel de Ayala) was a niece of Admiral Montojo, famous for the naval battle on Manila Bay between the Spaniards and the Americans.

The Zobels have been in the Philippines for nine generations.

Illustrious background

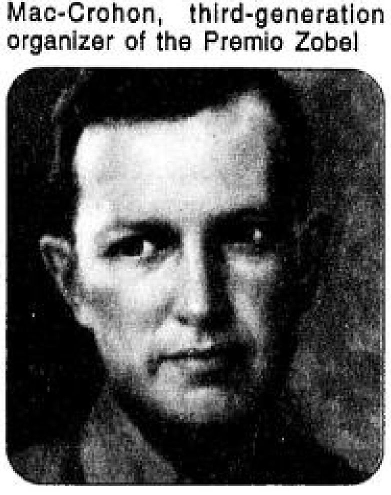
Jacobo Zobel Zangroniz, the first Filipino Zobel, married Trinidad Ayala de Roxas. The book says the couple came from "*dos familias de gran abolengo*" or two illustrious families. Dona Trinidad's family established Hacienda San Pedro and the Ayala group of companies.

The Ayalas came from Alavar, the Basque region in Spain. Juan Valentin de Ayala was the first to settle in the Philippines in 1795. Trinidad's mother, Margarita Roxas de Ayala, was one of the founders of La Concordia College. Her forbear Domingo Roxas was a prominent businessman from Batangas.

Jacobo Zobel Zangroniz's grandfather, Johann Andreas Zobel, opened the first chemical laboratory in the country and the first mining exploration company specializing in iron and copper in Bulacan and Baguio. Although his father Jacobo Zobel Hinsch was born in Hamburg, he became a Spanish citizen in Manila in 1849. He married Ana Zangroniz Arrieta, daughter of a Royal Audencia judge.

The son, Jacobo Zobel Zangroniz, was a man of many talents. He was a great businessman, a numismatic, an archaeologist, a writer and polyglot. He spoke 11 languages—Arabic, Etruscan, Chaldean, French, English, German, Italian, Swedish, Russian and naturally, Spanish. His brilliance was not unnoticed. He received medals and somebody wrote his biography. He was also mentioned in the Encyclopedia Espasa-Calpe in 1863. He also published his research and essays on ancient coins in Spanish and French.

GEORGINA Padilla y Zobel de Mac-Crohon, third-generation organizer of the Premio Zobel


DON Ricardo Padilla y Satrustegui painting by Amorsolo whose patron was Don Enrique Zobel

Don Jacobo befriended writer Hans Christian Andersen and often wrote to him.

When he settled in Manila, he began his philanthropic work by nurturing local talents. His house became a meeting place for *tertulias*, intellectual and cultural gatherings.

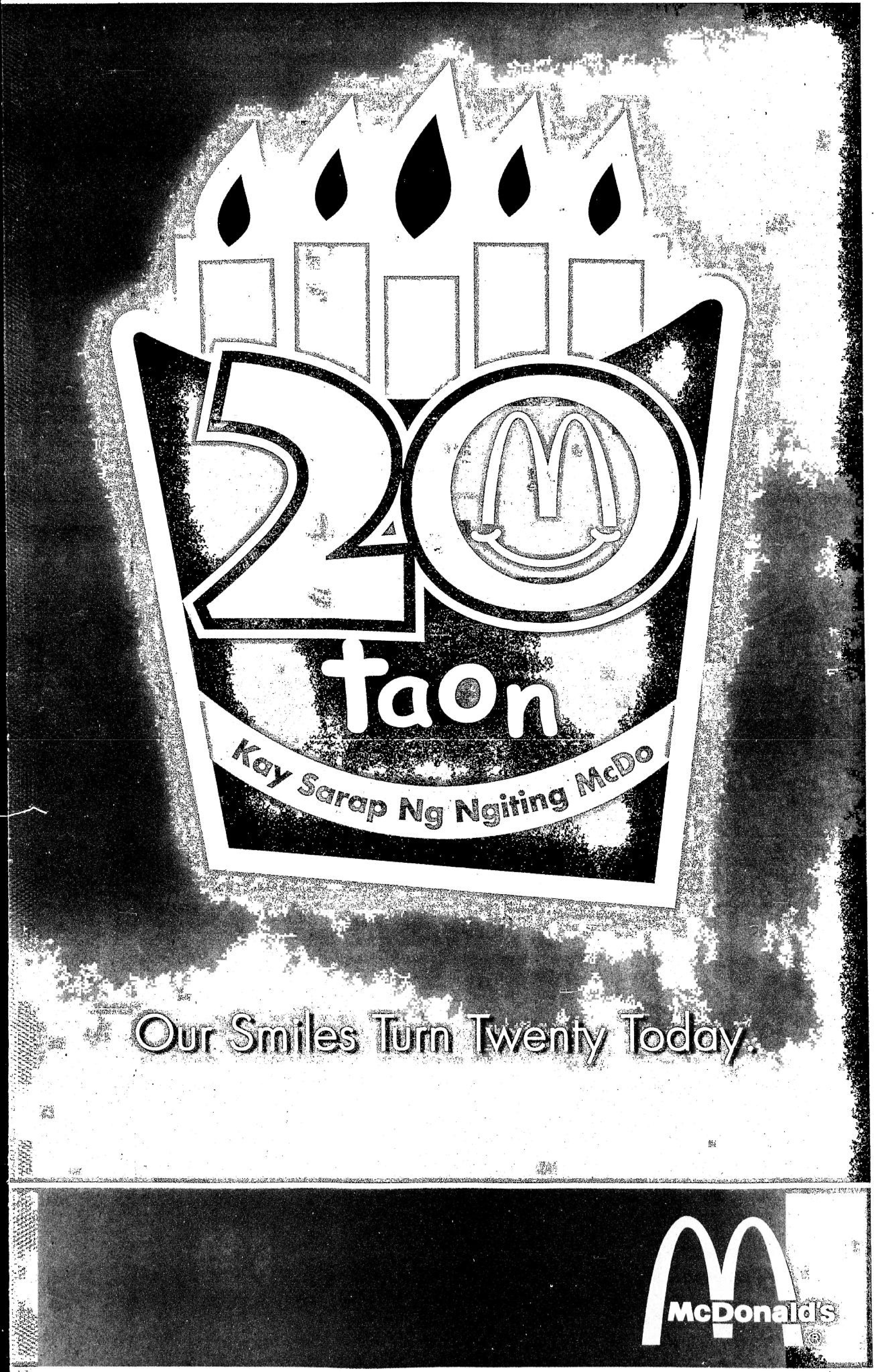
Because he wanted to contribute the development of the city, he worked in the departments of health, agriculture, trade and industry.

Causes for the Filipinos

Don Jacobo became the Mayor of Manila and the most respected peninsular. He championed the causes of the Filipinos. He batted for Philippine representation in the Spanish Cortes. He convinced the Spanish government to institute school system in the Philippines and was instrumental in the establishment of the Education Decree of 1863 aimed to promulgate Spanish. He also founded the first library in Spanish with materials, on agriculture and industry translated in Tagalog.

Because of his zeal and assertiveness, the Spanish authorities sometimes felt threatened and put him in jail. He was even charged as one of the suspects of

THE SAGA/ p.I3

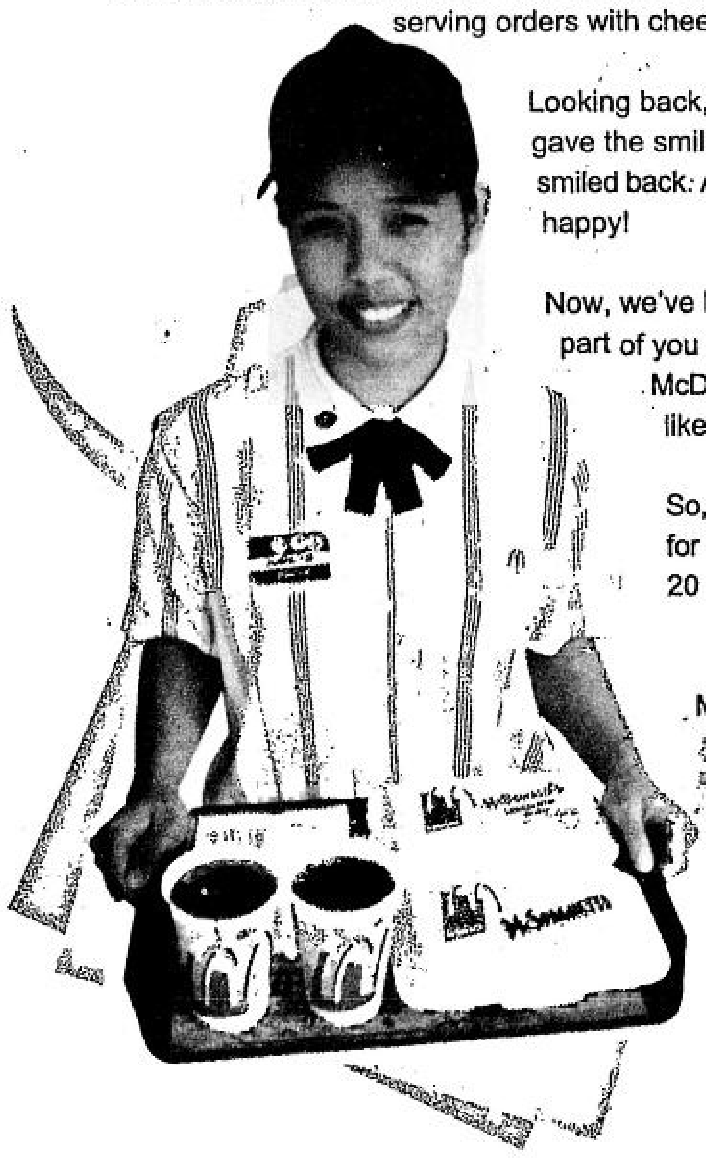

20
taon
Kay Sarap Ng Ngiting McDo
Our Smiles Turn Twenty Today.
McDonald's
®

McDonald's Celebrates 20 Smiling Years In The Philippines

First McDonald's store in Morayta and New Frontier.

It's been 20 years since we put up the first McDonald's restaurant in Morayta and we can still remember the excitement of the entire neighborhood when the Golden Arches was unveiled.

It was the first time Filipinos saw a restaurant that was staffed by young and vibrant students, preparing and serving orders with cheerfull smiles.



Looking back, we felt great. We gave the smiles while you in turn smiled back. And that made us very happy!

Now, we've become so much a part of you that you called us McDo – a true friend,just like what we are to you.

So, allow us to thank you for sharing with us those 20 smiling years!

Maraming salamat po!

Trailblazing 20 years

McDonald's led the quick service restaurant revolution around the world! In keeping with tradition, it continues to be the trailblaze in the business. In the Philippines, it has introduced customer oriented innovations which have made "fun-dining" a reality.

When George Yang, founder of McDonald's Philippines, brough the world's No. 1 quick service restaurant here in the country, he took along the global experience and expertise it has learned through the years.

(The Drive-thru, Playplace, McSavers Meals, McHappy Meals...some of the innovations that McDonald's has introduced to the Philippines.)

Only in the Philippines

Did you know that McSpaghetti is served only in the Philippines? So are Burger McDo and the Longganisa Meal. Why? Because we want you to enjoy the best of the global taste together with your Filipino favorites all under one happy roof.

Globe HANDYPHONE
It's all in your hands

Proud to be the digital cellular partner of McDonald's on its 20th year anniversary.

KRAFT

Giving Delight to every McDonald's Bite!

HAVI

HAVI FOOD SERVICES PHILIPPINES, INC.

Constantly delivering McDonald's best all over the Philippines!

Music that'll make you smile

McDo Jingle

The Megastar, Sharon Cuneta sings McDonald's 20th Anniversary song!

"Kay Sarap ng Ngiting McDo"

Pagpasok mo pa lamang
Ang sarap ng pakiramdam
Dahil sa lugar mong paborito
May sasalubong sa 'yo

II. Puro ngiti ang makikita mo
McFavorites na bubulaga sa 'yo
McSaraaap talaga, walang tatalo
Sa McDo na pinakasikat sa mundo!

III. Kahit saan ka mapunta
Dito ka masaya
Barkada'y okey na
Pamilya'y sama-sama.

IV. Sa bawa't kagat
May ngiting katapat
Dal'wampung taon
Ng saya at sarap

V. KAY SARAP NG NGITING McDO!
KAY SARAP NG NGITING McDO!

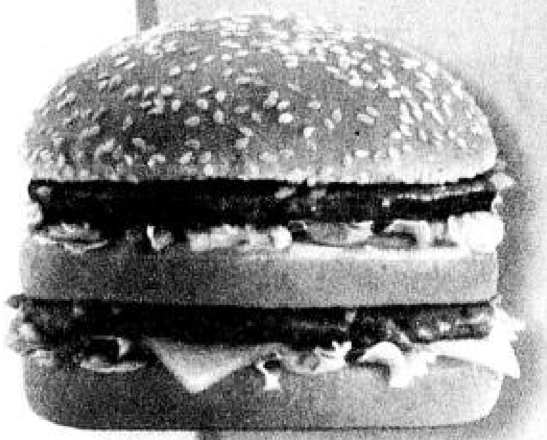
VI. Enjoy na enjoy sa lasa
Ng McDo, Spaghetti…at iba pa.

VII. KAY SARAP NG NGITING McDO!
KAY SARAP NG NGITING McDO!

VIII. Kaya taralets, kita-kits
Sa McDo kay saya.
Dal'wampung taon kang nasanay
Sa ngiting dulot ng sarap at ligaya!

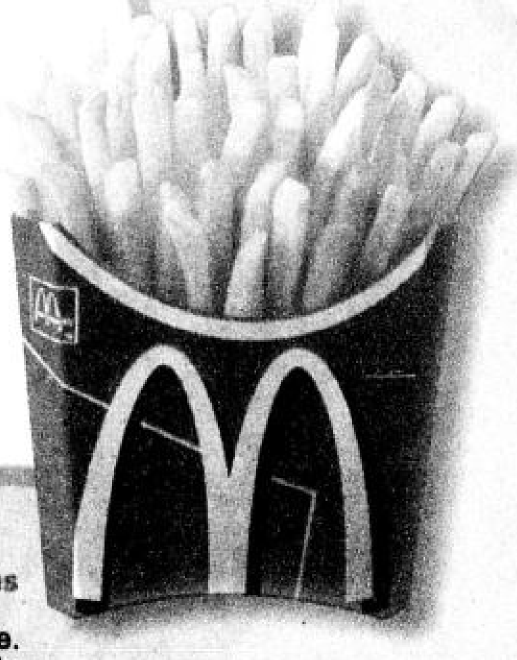
IX. KAY SARAP NG NGITING McDO!
KAY SARAP NG NGITING McDO!

Delightful Reasons to Smile



The Big Mac

You know the drill: two all-beef patties, special sauce, lettuce,cheese, pickles, onions, on a sesame seed bun!



The French Fries

A sure favorite. Always delicious to the last piece.

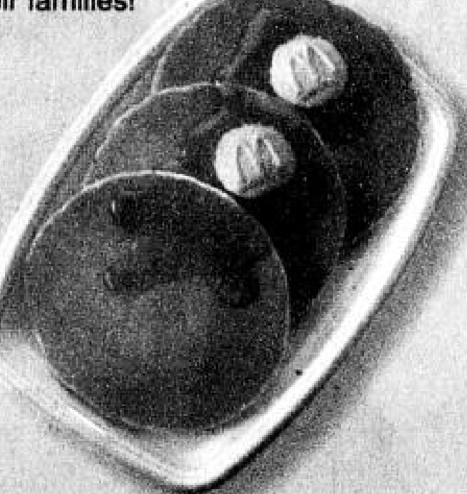
Chicken McCrispy

Definitely a growing favorite among kids and their families!

McFLURRY
McFLURRY

A Cool Flurry Fun Delight

A perfect ending to cap that delicious Happy Meal!



McDonald's Hotcakes

Three layers of breakfast delight!

Burger Mcdo

A simply delicious burger that everyone loves!

smilestones

1991
McDonald's opens stores in Baguio and Tarlac. The Chicken McNuggets hatches in restaurants.

1992
McDonalds goes nationwide, with stores in Cebu, Cagayan, and other parts in Visayas, and Mindanao.

Mouth-watering Barbecue chops, Pork Teriyaki, and the curly Twister fries joins the exciting menu of McDonald's.

1993
Easy on the pocket, heavy on the stomach. The McSavers Value Meal and the Filipino breakfast make its way to the stores.

The Burger McDo Sandwich was born.

McDonald's launches MAKABATA, an achievers program, for its favorite customers--kids.

1994
Burger McDo, the Filipino-style burger rolls out for the first time.

Provincial expansion rises with 10 new stores in the Visayas.

1995
McDonald's launches more kid-friendly programs like the Smile Club and the Litter Patrol.

1996
Giving something back to the community with the launching of the Ronald McDonald House Charities.

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES PHILIPPINES

Megastar Sharon Cuneta endorses McDonald's.

Going world-class when the Philippines won the McDonald's International Award for Excellence in Value and Profitability.

1997
McDonald's scores 100 with its 100th store in Sumulong Highway, Marikina.

1998
It's double the fun with the McDonald's McDobols.

MAKABATA Program receives the prestigious Anvil Award of Excellence in public relations.

1999
Everyone's in a hurry to buy the McFlurry!

Pineapple pie and Pineapple McFlurry squeezes into the McDonald's menu.

2000
McDonald's Philippines participates in global initiatives that honors the youth through the Millennium Dreamers and the Olympic Achievers.

2001
More fun and more smiles as McDonald's Philippines turns 20! The Chicken McCrispy is launched! McFlurry gains more fans with its new stars: Buko Pandan, Melon, Orange Coco and Bubblegum flavors.

Magnolia
FOOD SERVICE
Supplying delicious dairy to McDonald's restaurants everywhere.

No Brownout for all McDonald's Stores Nationwide... power back-up by AKSA Generator Sets

Vassar
Vassar Industries, Inc.
The essential partner in quenching your thirst.

McDonald's®

The Heart of McDonald's

McDonald's founder, Ray Kroc, believed in giving back to the community, a philosophy kept by the company since 1955.

There are now six grantees which it supports, namely: Tuloy sa Don Bosco Street Children Project, Leukemic Indigent Fund Endowment (LIFE), St. Luke's Augmented Immunization Program, Resources for the Blind, Welcome Home Foundation, Child Health in Life and Development (CHILD). Recently, it donated a pediatric ventilator to the Philippine Children's Medical Center which has improved the center's capability to help premature babies have a better chance of life.

The Ronald McDonald House Charities also partners with two international medical missions -- Interplast and Operation Smile, which visit the Philippines to perform facial reconstructive surgery among children and help make them smile.

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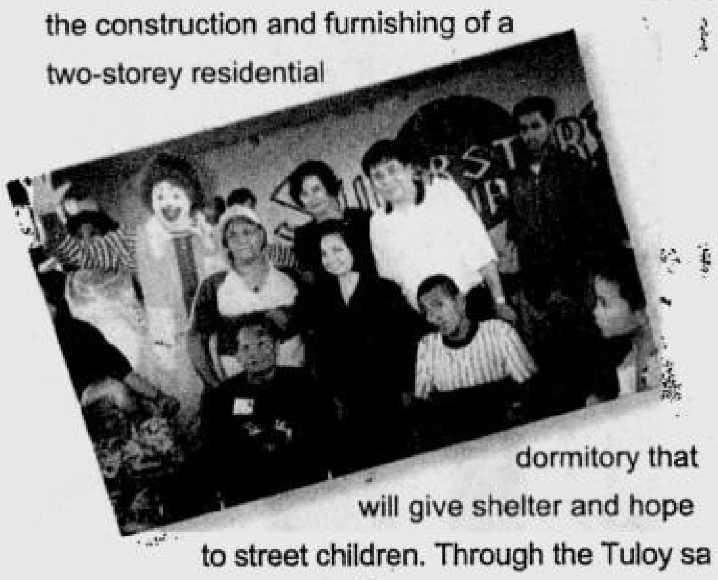
Tuloy sa Don Bosco Street Children Project

The Ronald McDonald House Charities has funded the construction and furnishing of a two-storey residential dormitory that will give shelter and hope to street children. Through the Tuloy sa Don Bosco Street Children Village, street kids are now sheltered in the comforts of a well-provided life including a chance to be in school, and aspire for a better future.



Leukemic Indigent Fund Endowment (LIFE)

Ronald McDonald House Charities has saved lives of leukemic children and is still giving hope to many. With individual and corporate benefactors such as McDonald's, the foundation tries to give children the fighting chance for a better future. It provides for a three-year program for treatment of children with leukemia.

Resources for the Blind

The center is a place where ignorance is a battle fought in groves of the Braille paper sheets. Ronald McDonald House Charities has donated these Braille materials so that children could read their lessons everyday, as they progress to being adults who must face the world with a brave heart and clear vision.

Welcome Home Foundation

Welcome Home Foundation aims to help deaf children learn to speak. Ronald McDonald House Charities helps this cause by providing for the school fees of deaf children. It has also helped in the purchase of several computers and speech viewer programs needed for the training of these wonderful kids.

Ronald McDonald
House Charities
Annual Golf Tournament
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB

Operation Smile and Interplast

The global calling of this medical team to help children with facial deformities is Ronald McDonald House Charities advocacy too--bringing smiles to Filipino children. Along with other corporate sponsors, Ronald McDonald House Charities takes part in this a yearly medical mission that conducts reconstructive surgery on children with harelips and other facial deformities.

TM

RONALD MCDONALD
HOUSE CHARITIES
PHILIPPINES

Your Smiles, Our Rewards

In the past 20 years, we have been honored by so many organizations and award-giving bodies.

Here are just some of the more recent awards:

- Pronounced as Outstanding Fastfood Chain in the Philippines by the Consumer's Union of the Philippines in 2000
- International Master Franchiser of the Year by the Philippine Retailers Association in 1999
- Anvil Award of Excellence for the MAKABATA Program in 1998

Thank you for continuing to inspire us these past 20 years!

Thousands of restaurants around the globe!

There are now 29,000 McDonald's restaurants serving 45 million customers everyday. That's a lotta smiles multiplied by the thousands!

Eighty percent (80%) of these restaurants are owned by local, independent franchisees.

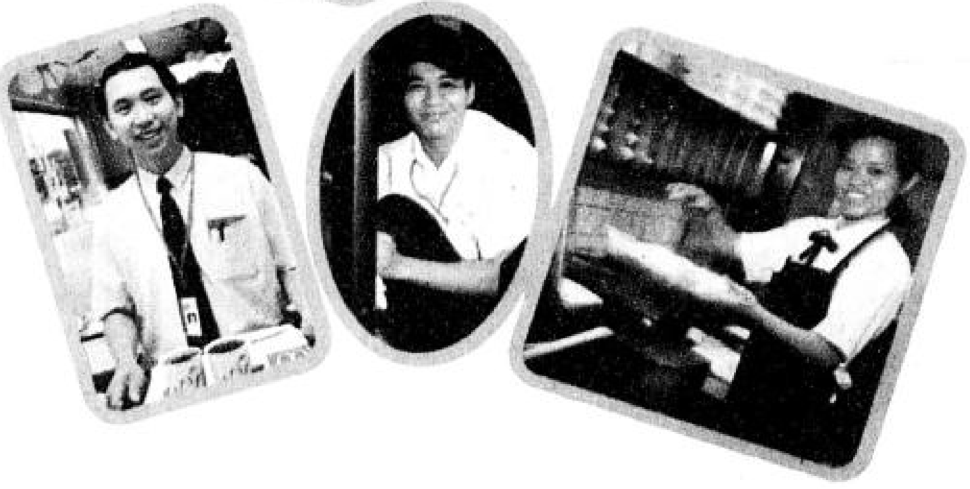
In the Philippines, more McDonald's restaurants are put up as franchisees continue to aspire to have their own Golden Arches.

Smile Crew

The singlemost important part of McDonald's success in the Philippines and around the world is its smiling crew. The courteous welcome, the snappy service, the cheerful hum of activity in the store is a happy sight to see. Becoming a McDonald's crew is one of the most sought-after experience among students. Its employment program aims to give equal opportunities to all, even for the physically-challenged.

It's no wonder why the customers are happy...the people who serve them are all smiles!

Franchisees undergo kitchen and store internship before they are allowed to run their own McDonald's store.



Our Smiles are Global

We're partners with people who, like us, know how to have fun!

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN

Disney®

smilestones

1981
The Golden Arches arrives in the Philippines -- the 6,740th McDonald's store in the world.

1982
Cars in the Philippines line up for the first Drive-thru at McDonald's in Greenhills.

Birthdays are never the same again when the Ronald McDonald's Birthday Club was launched.

1983
The first McDonald's franchise opens in Baclaran.

Filipinos get a first bite of the McChicken Sandwich.

1984
McDonald's launches the membership card craze with its VIP Good Neighbor and Gimme-A-Break program.

1985
Earlybirds head to McDonald's for the Breakfast Menu.

1986
The McSpaghetti is served...only in the Philippines!

1987
The McDonald's Fried Chicken start to make its way to the hearts (and stomachs) of Filipinos.

Edu Manzano stars in a McDonald's commercial as its first endorser.

1988
It's official! McDonald's is a kid's haven when the first McDonald's Playplace opened.

1989
McDonald's opens in Subic Naval Base, Olongapo.

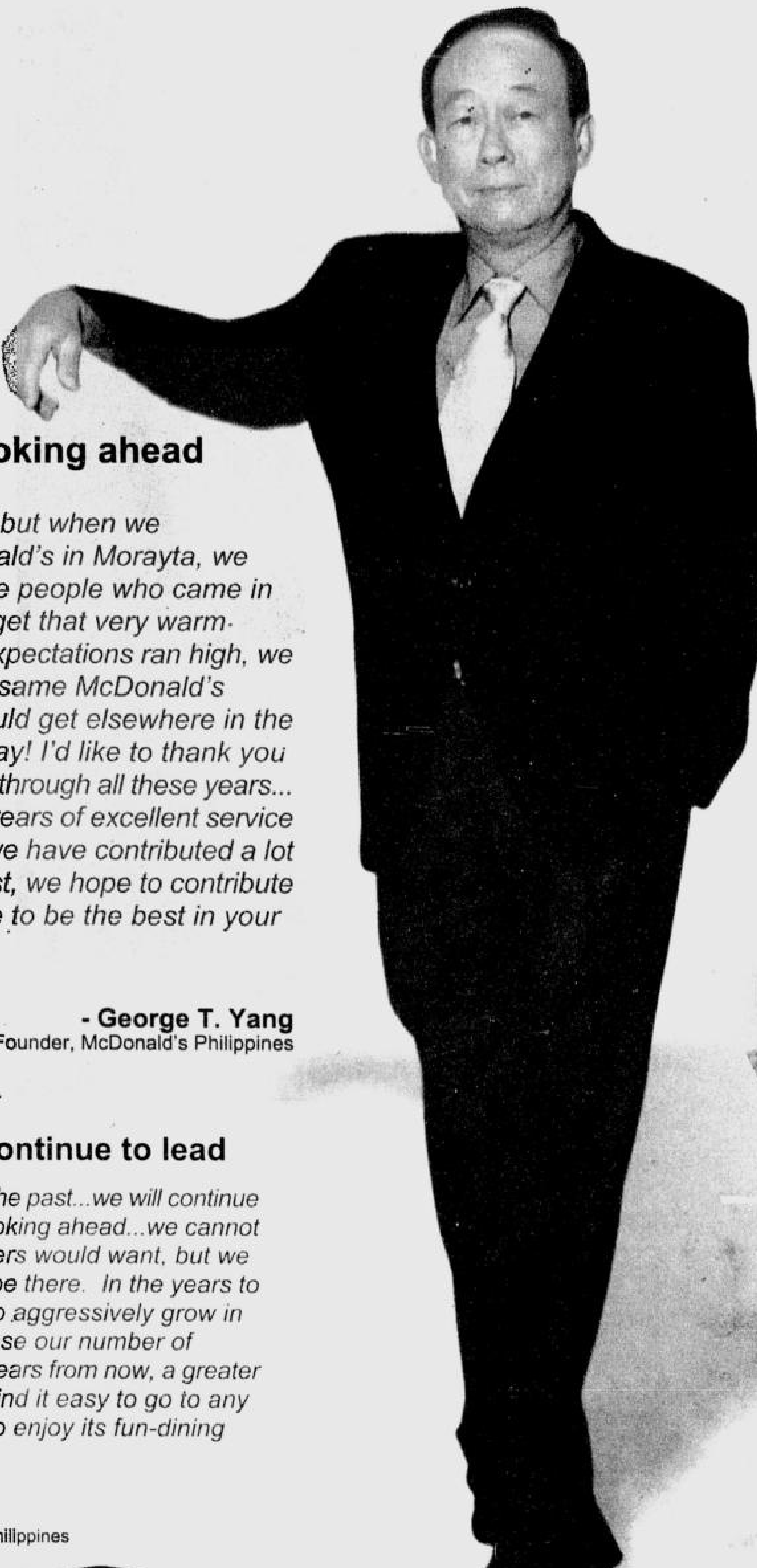
1990
The Ronald McDonald Fun Fun Fun Club brings Big Big Big smiles to kids as it launches its birthday packages.

FUJITSU
THE POSSIBILITIES ARE INFINITE
Providing world-class information techonlogy support for McDonald's throughout the Philippines.

Blue Dairy CORPORATION
Delivering safe and best quality dairy, orange juice, vegetable products and over 5,000 tons of McFlurry mixes for all customers' delight!

Nestea
Taking the Nestea Plunge with McDonald's as they celebrate their 20th Anniversary.

McDonald's®



Looking back, looking ahead

"You will not believe it...but when we opened the first McDonald's in Morayta, we couldn't accomodate the people who came in droves... I could not forget that very warm welcome! And though expectations ran high, we did our best to give the same McDonald's experience that you would get elsewhere in the world...and so, until today! I'd like to thank you all for loving McDonald's through all these years... we promise another 20 years of excellent service to the Filipino. And, as we have contributed a lot to the industry in the past, we hope to contribute even more as we aspire to be the best in your hearts always!"

- George T. Yang
President and Founder, McDonald's Philippines

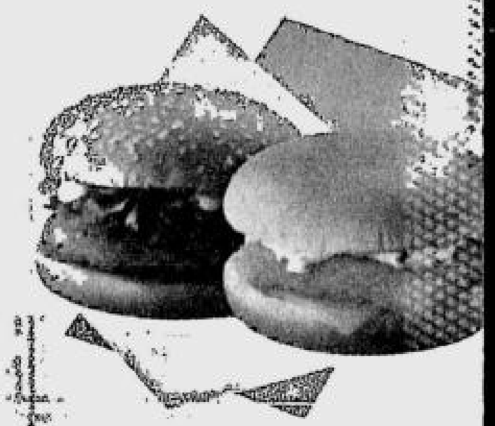
McDonald's will continue to lead

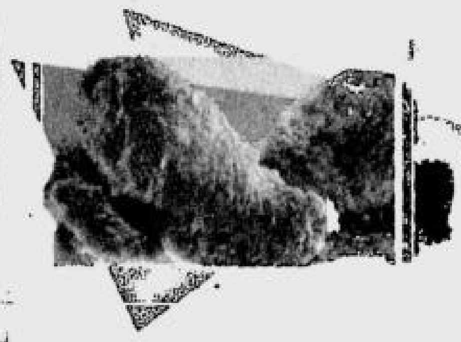
"We set the standards in the past...we will continue setting it in the future. Looking ahead...we cannot predict what the customers would want, but we will surely be the first to be there. In the years to come, we will continue to aggressively grow in the provinces and increase our number of franchisees...so that 20 years from now, a greater number of Filipinos will find it easy to go to any McDonald's restaurant to enjoy its fun-dining experience."

- Joseph S. Lau
Managing Director, McDonald's Philippines

20 Reasons to Smile

"What else can you ask for from a restaurant? Clean place, fine food, world-class service... It's so easy to endorse a product that you love so much!"
-- Sharon Cuneta, celebrity and singer of the 20th Anniversary Jingle





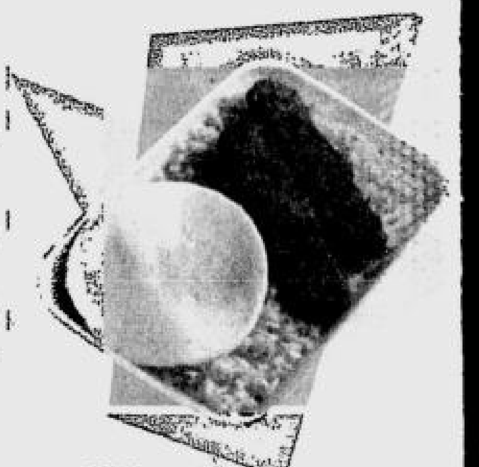
"Sa McDo, you're given continuous training to keep you abreast with the latest developments in the industry. You're kept current with business standards."
–Ms. Norkie Go, McDonald's employee since 1982

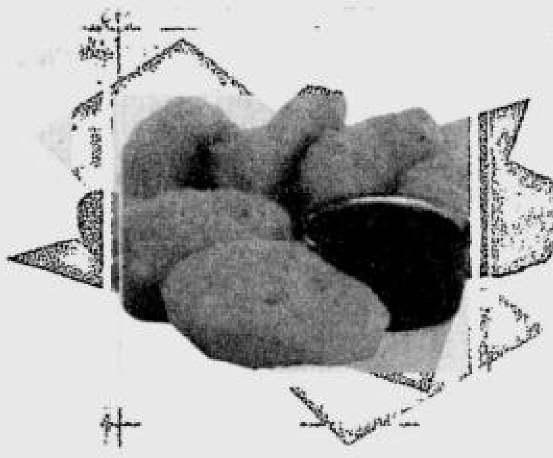
"Every Saturday morning is surely McBreakfast day at McDonald's. Naku, our Saturday just won't be complete without it!"
--Marie Pascual, mother of 2 loyal McDonald's fans

"Being sent to the Sydney Olympic Youth Camp last year together with Natasha Roscom as the country's Olympic Achievers has been a great hon and truly fun as well. To McDonald's, maraming maramin salamat! I hope you continue helping even more kids shine!"
-- Alnard Pagulayan, Olympic Achiever

"I've taken pictures of people enjoying themselvs with friends over some burgers and fries at McDonald's. Ang sasarap talag ng mga ngiti nila!"
-- Gari Buenavista, photographe

"The best thing about being a McDonald's franchisee is growing with McDonald's. From undergoing store training to your daily coordination with your crew and managers, and to building up your restaurant, McDonald's is on your side, a definite McPartnership!"
-- Dimpy Camara, McDonald's franchisee





" McDonald's changed my life. I didn't imagine I could go to places because of my achievements as a kid. It's not only a place for my favorite spaghetti and McCrispy, but something so much more!"
-- Kimberly Kwok, Millennium Dreamer

" Ibang klase ang experience namin sa kiddie crew...mas marami kaming naging kaibigan at nalaman tungkol sa pag-serve sa mga tao."
--Tristan and Justin Samson, 11and 9 years old, and recent Kiddie Crew members

" I used to stay near a McDonald's restaurant. For study groups, cramming and rushing to school, McDonald's is always there. I can always count on McDonald's to be there for me, just like a friend!"
-- Peachy Garcia, 22 year old law student

"Ako favorite ko yung Chicken McCrispy! Tapos, kailangan kasama ko si Mommy at Papa! Siempre para may McFlurry di ba!"
--Kokoy Sevilla, Grade 1 student, McDonald's lover

DDB Philippines
Communicating McMessages loud and clear.

Leo Burnett
Improving the sales effectiveness and reputation of clients like McDonald's through ideas.

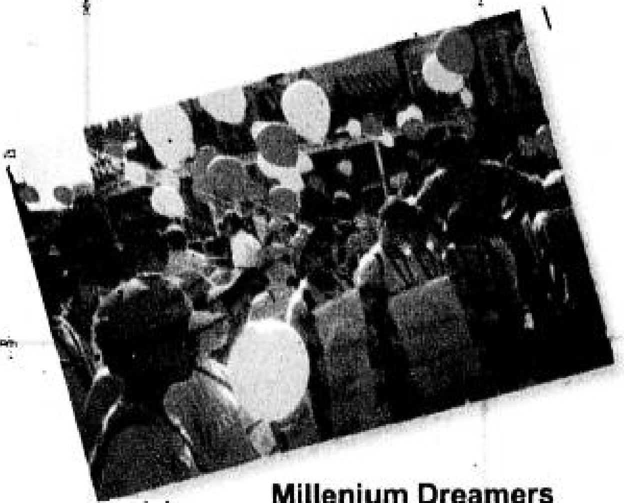
McDonald's and Coca-Cola, two of the most popular brands in the world. Inseperable partners for the past 20 years.

Rolling Pin
Making McDonald's birthday parties memorable for kids for over ten years.

EXCELLENCE IN CHILDREN

Mc Donald's recognizes and promotes excellence.

Makabata



Millenium Dreamers

In celebration of the turn of the millennium, McDonald's Philippines chose sixteen Filipino children to be among the 2,000 "Millenium Dreamers," who became part of a worldwide event that marked the coming of the new millennium. Implemented in association with UNESCO, it was one of the largest and most far-reaching searches ever conducted to honor young people who always walk the extra mile and lend a helping.

Disney

Millennium Dreamers

Awards

Makabata Awards

Children who excel must be honored to recognize their early achievements. The Makabata Awards did just that. McDonald's itself is a corporate achiever whose history can be a good model for others to emulate. It encourages kids to perform and develop their potentials while they are still young.

Olympic Achievers

McDonald's brings to the Filipino the global experience of fastfoods and other landmark events in the world. As part of its global sponsorship of the Olympic games McDonald's Philippines had the chance to sponsor two Filipino youth to be part of the International Youth Camp in Sydney.

OLYMPIC COMMITTEE
PHILIPPINE

McDonald's
Olympic Achievers

McDonald's
Olympic Achievers

Fun with Ronald

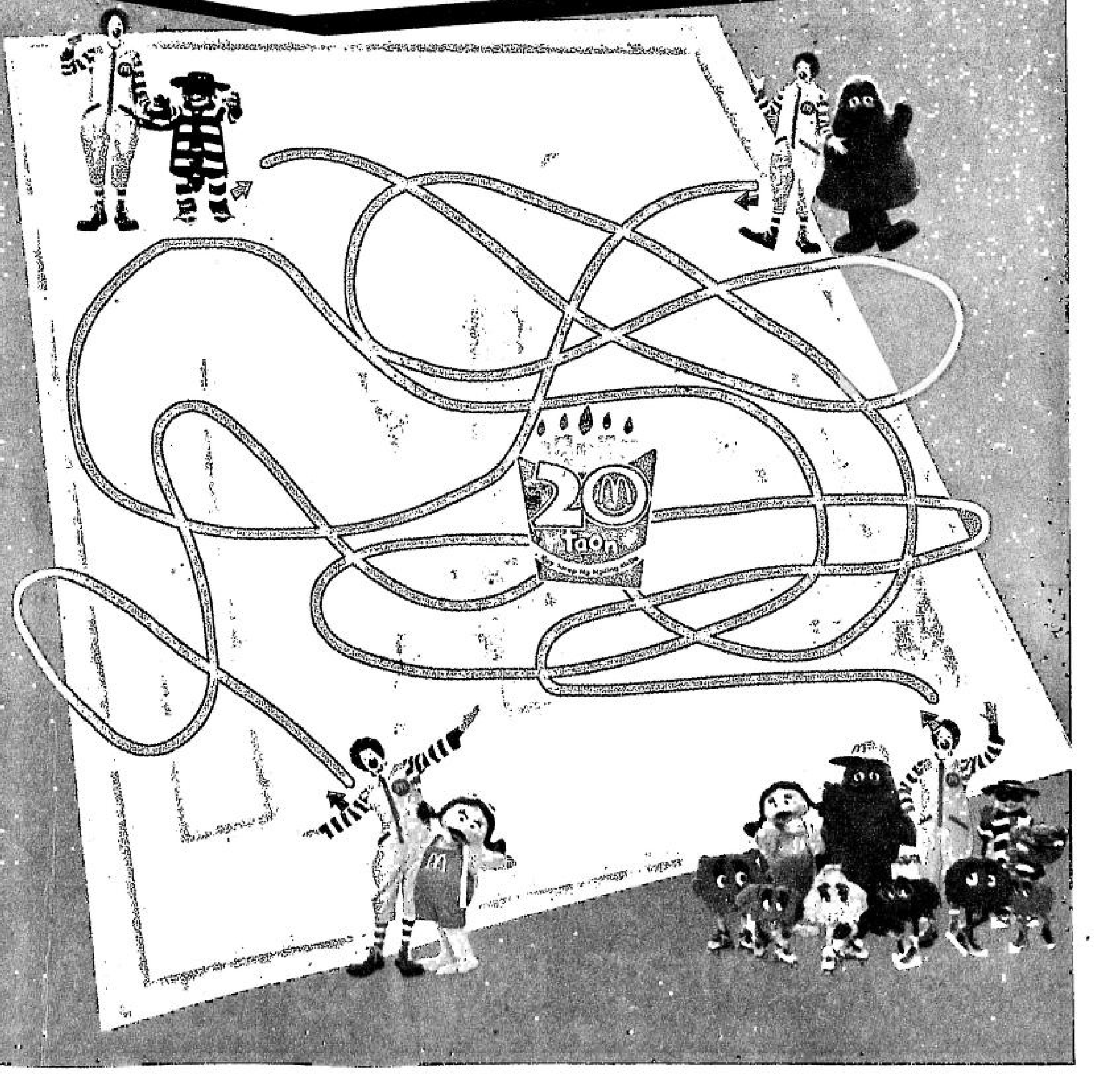
PUZZLE

C	X	F	I	L	E	T	O	F	I	S	H	F
H	E	M	O	R	L	I	L	D	M	V	Q	N
S	U	N	D	A	E	Y	J	T	E	P	B	D
M	Z	N	C	E	R	D	T	L	A	T	U	M
C	X	B	G	E	A	R	I	M	S	V	R	P
N	F	T	K	D	F	M	W	I	B	Q	G	C
U	M	T	E	I	S	Q	D	T	Y	B	E	J
G	S	R	Q	L	M	C	F	L	U	R	R	Y
G	Y	O	H	I	M	G	V	W	K	B	T	K
E	D	N	O	R	L	I	L	D	M	I	Q	N
T	H	A	P	P	Y	M	E	A	L	G	B	E
S	Z	L	F	E	R	D	T	L	A	M	A	M
C	X	D	R	E	A	R	I	M	S	A	R	P
N	C	H	I	C	K	E	N	I	B	C	F	C
U	M	T	E	I	S	Q	D	T	Y	B	E	J
G	S	R	S	P	A	G	H	E	T	T	I	Y

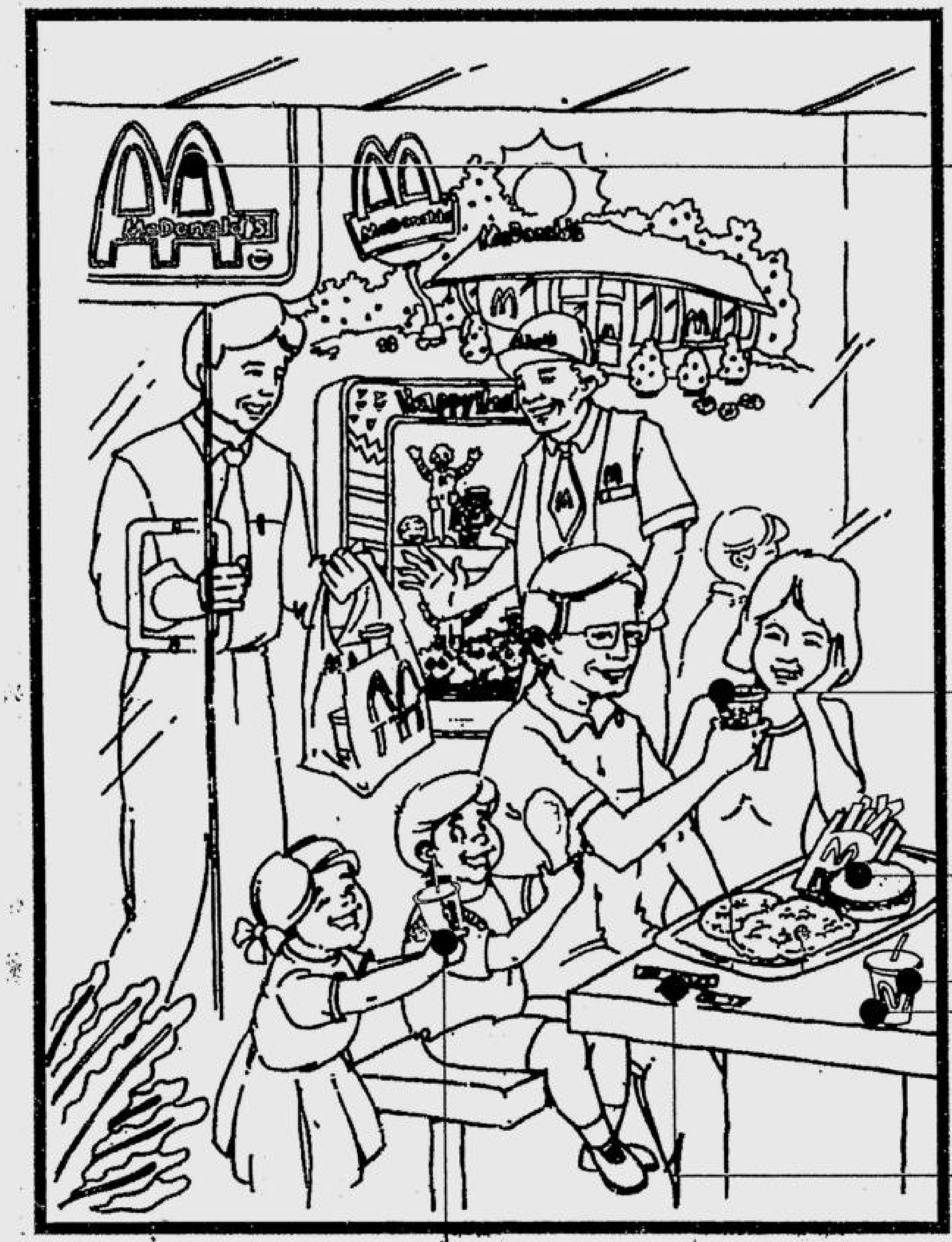
Find all of these items in the diagram. They may be forward, backward, up, down, or diagonal.

- Fries
- Burger
- Chicken
- Big Mac
- Spaghetti
- McNuggets
- Smile
- Sundae
- Ronald
- Filet-O-Fish
- Happy Meal
- McFlurry

Help Ronald and the gang find their way to the 20th anniversary logo!



20 Years of Good Times and Great Partnership



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